Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 180 | TUESDAY JULY 31, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

What is your primary source of local news?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

A section chef of Marianas Resort & Spa is Saipan's Next Top Chef.
➤ PAGE 7

ASIA

Philippine commandos capture a militant from the violent Abu Sayyaf group.
➤ PAGE 15

OVERDRIVE

If you're in the market for a family hauler, the 2012 Honda Pilot is a top choice.
➤ PAGE 18

$1.2M CIP money reprogrammed for CUC. PAGE 5
Sagana is top reader in JKPL's summer reading program. PAGE 6

'SUBSTITUTE' INITIATIVE PROPOSES:

'From 29 to 17 lawmakers, four-year terms for House'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Committee version, to be voted on today, includes Senate seat cuts
» One week to go before deadline to be placed on ballot

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations released yesterday a report recommending passage of a "substitute" version of a 17-month-old legislative initiative that now increases the term of House members to four years and cuts the number of senators from nine to six. These were not in the original proposal.

The original version only sought to reduce the number of Saipan House seats from 18 to nine, and an islandwide election for House seats instead of election by precinct level.

The islandwide election for Saipan House seats was retained in the committee version.

The committee version also retains the original proposal to reduce the House

See HOUSE on Page 4

Family of late Army specialist seeks speedy probe

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Resolution to honor Mendiola being prepared

The family of the late U.S. Army Specialist Hanson Mendiola of Tinian is seeking a speedy investigation into the cause of his death in Corpus Christi, Texas on July 22, even as the Senate is drafting a resolution to honor his contributions to the CNMI and the country and to express con-

See FAMILY on Page 4

Alien workers' travel concerns continue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A little known policy change that was never announced or publicized beforehand is causing headaches among alien workers in the Commonwealth who want to travel to Guam or other parts of the United States.

A registered nurse who just recently traveled to Hawaii and Guam using parole and without a B1/B2 visa is now also being asked to apply for a $360 advance parole to go to Guam to represent the CNMI in an Aug. 3 to 4 badminton tournament. She has a pending H visa application.

"Who would want to lose $360 when you know that Guam USCIS office will only reject an advance parole application to go to Guam just like what they told a previous applicant? They allowed me to travel to Hawaii for a nurse conference and then to Guam using only parole. But they said there were recent changes to the process so I have to apply for ad-

See ALIEN on Page 4

READING TIME MONETH G. DEPOSA

A mother reads a story to her daughter while her youngest son checks a book at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Saturday morning. The family was just among the hundreds of visitors that trooped to the public library last weekend. This summer, an estimated over 4,000 children's books were read by participants of Dream Big Read summer reading program.

IT&E Life in Motion
THE ANDROID EXPERIENCE
NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF ANDROID
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net
HTC DESIRE $49*
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

House panel approves limited gambling operations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Ways and Means is recommending passage of a two-month-old bill allowing non-profit corporations to operate supervised gambling on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on an annual basis and only to raise funds for medical referral, scholarship, sports and cultural programs, among other things approved by the Registrar of Corporation.

» Second Social Security bill to be introduced today

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) committee recommends passage of vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-297 in its current form.

The committee said the purpose of these limited and supervised gambling operations is to raise funds for programs "which are legitimate public purpose otherwise funded through appropriation by the Legislature."

"The Committee finds that with the continued decline in government revenues and the inability and/or the limitations to financially support sports organizations, events, medical referral, scholarship and indigent programs, it is reasonable and necessary to provide other methods instead of solely relying on the financial backing of the government," the panel said.

Casino gambling is legal on Tinian and Rota, but not on Saipan.

The committee also said the bill will not cost the CNMI government additional funding, "but rather get new money circulating within the economy by way of larger and more responsible fundraising activities."

It also said this will, once enacted into law, will help infuse additional funds back into businesses which will help business growth and the possibility of additional collections for the general fund.

Pension recovery bill

Acting Speaker George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) will be introducing today a second administration-drafted bill in weeks related to the NMI Retirement Fund and the transitioning into the U.S. Social Security system.

House Bill 17-315 or the CNMI Pension Reform and Recovery Act of 2012 is co-sponsored by Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

It seeks to amend the Commonwealth Code pertaining to the Fund's defined benefit plan and to allow for participation in the Social Security system.

Camacho pre-filed the bill yesterday, a few days after then acting governor Eloy S. Inos urged lawmakers on Thursday to promptly act on the bill giving active and inactive Fund members "options"—as some lawmakers and active members described it—including allowing withdrawal of contributions, early retirement, and transitioning into the U.S. Social Security program.

The bill could be acted on during today's House session.

Meanwhile, the Senate held yesterday a public hearing on Tinian on the first administration-drafted bill expressing the CNMI's desire to join the U.S. Social Security program.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said just like the public hearing they held on Rota last week, yesterday's public hearing on Tinian drew strong reactions from the crowd on the state of the Retirement Fund. The Senate will act on this first Social Security bill on Wednesday.

Obama signs A. Samoa wage delay bill

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—The president has signed into law legislation to freeze American Samoa's minimum wage until 2015.

President Barack Obama signed the bill Thursday last week, which delays a 50-cent increase that would have gone into effect in September.

Minimum wage in American Samoa varies from $4.18 to $5.59 per hour, depending on the industry. The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 provided for annual 50-cents per hour increases until the rate matched the rest of the U.S., where the minimum pay is $7.25 per hour.

Employers and a government financial report have suggested automatic increases were harming the U.S. territory's economy.

The new law also delays a periodic U.S. Government Accountability Office report on the impact of prior wage increases on American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

From left, John E. and Mary DLG McCashland, Edward C. and Eve O. DeLeon Guerrero, Michael O. DeLeon Guerrero (groom), Angela B. DeLeon Guerrero (bride), Matthew O. DeLeon Guerrero (best man), and Molly M. and Jason Selznick. Inset shows the newlywed couple.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Summer wedding for DeLeon Guerrero, Bond

Angela Ruth Bond wed Michael Owen DeLeon Guerrero on June 15, 2012, in a summer sunset ceremony held in Boise, Idaho. After the ceremony, families and friends joined the happy couple for dinner that mixed famous Texas barbecue with traditional Chamorro fiesta dishes.

Angela is the daughter of Tyler Bond of Biddle, Montana and Ruth White Lynch of Huntsville, Texas. Angela is also the granddaughter of proud grandparents George and Anne Greene of Luling, Texas.

Michael is the son of Edward C. and Eve O. DeLeon-Guerrero of Koblerville, Saipan.

Angela graduated from Boise State University in May 2009 with a bachelor's degree in Education and is currently employed by the State of Idaho as a sixth grade teacher at Liberty Elementary School in Boise.

Michael also graduated from BSU in May 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration. Michael is currently employed by Idaho's Ada County Juvenile Court Services as a diversion officer.

The couple are preparing to continue their education at BSU to get their master's degrees in their respective fields of study. ***(PR)***

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

MVA's Go Green! Facebook & Twitter Contest

The **Marianas Visitors Authority** (MVA) has launched its first English-language social media contest to promote the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The **Go Green in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota!** Contest invites **Facebook** friends and users who "like" the Marianas Visitors Authority and **Twitter** followers to share or re-tweet the message, **"Enjoy nature on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, America's garden in the Pacific. Visit now! www.mymarianas.com."** Individuals who do so by September 30, 2012, will be entered into a random drawing to win one of 50 **Marianas eco-bags**.

Social media contests are no stranger to the MVA, as they have been utilized by its Japan and Korea offices, often in collaboration with tourism partners in those countries. On its English social media sites, the MVA hopes to double its 450 "friends" and 118 "likes" on Facebook and 80 followers on Twitter.

The "Go Green" theme is based on the overwhelming results of a 2011 visitor exit survey, where most visitors indicated nature/scenic attractions as the top one or two activities they would like to see more of while visiting the Northern Marianas. Visitors also listed environmental quality as a priority.

The MVA's Facebook profile is **"Saipan Tinian Rota"** and the office can be followed on Twitter at **@mva_cnmi**. The MVA also operates a Facebook page **"My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority)."**

Contest rules are posted at **www.mymarianas.com**

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

CDA: Lifting of loan moratorium dim

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lifting of the moratorium on new loans has a dim chance of passing the Commonwealth Development Authority board as its members and the management team appear to have contrasting opinions on the issue.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan and loan manager Oscar Camacho made it clear during Friday's meeting of the development corporation division that they will not endorse lifting the moratorium until the new Small Business Credit Initiative Program is up and running.

The new program is funded by $13 million made available by the U.S. Treasury. Businesses that might be affected by the CDA moratorium on new loans have the option to apply with the SBCI program, which has already made available over $4 million to CNMI borrowers.

The management team received support from board member Marcie Tomokane, who is convinced that lifting the moratorium will jeopardize the SBCI program, which CDA and the Department of Commerce are actively pushing. She suggested keeping the moratorium until the new program becomes successful.

She disclosed that CDA also has limited reserves to accommodate new loans if the moratorium is lifted.

CDA implemented the moratorium on new loans in March this year so it could build its cash reserves and to give way to the SBCI program. The moratorium is indefinite.

Board member Diego Songao argued that it would be unfair for borrowers to be refused a CDA loan just because of the new program, which he said has not been in operating in the past six months anyway.

CDA is not even legally required to build up a reserve or backup funds for the new SBCI program, he added.

Songao wants to open up the loan program to help businesses that are struggling due to the economic slowdown.

His comments were countered by Tomakane and Sablan, who provided updates on the status of the new program. They said that, as far as CDA is concerned, the SBCI program is ongoing and has been in contact with participating banks.

According to loan manager Oscar Camacho, lifting the moratorium will also indicate that the CNMI is not serious about the new program.

CDA comptroller Danny Militante reported to the board Friday that the agency has $1.6 million in its account but pointed out that close to $1.3 million has already been obligated, resulting in only $316,000 in available funds.

Militante said the $1.3 million obligated funds include $1 million for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and $268,000 for KKMP. He said the agency is also expecting $800,000 from foreclosed properties but pointed out that this is not cash because many of these properties were acquired by lease and involve long-term periods.

The board put off making any decision on the moratorium pending a presentation to the board about the SBCI program, as ordered by board chair Tom Glenn Quitugua.

ROYAL RECEPTION AP
Governor of Guam Edward Jerome Baza Calvo and partner arrive at Buckingham Palace in London for a reception hosted by Queen Elizabeth II for the heads of state and government prior to attending the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, Friday, July 27, 2012.

Ex-convict found not guilty of stealing cop's cell phone

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday acquitted an ex-convict accused of stealing a government-issued cell phone belonging to a police sergeant.

During a bench trial, Camacho found Hilario T. Angui not guilty of theft because the Office of the Attorney General failed to prove an element of the crime—the value of the cell phone.

The judge cited a previous court decision stating that when a particular fact—whether it is considered an "element" of a crime or a "sentencing factor"—exposes a defendant to a greater punishment, then the Sixth Amendment requires a jury to find it beyond a reasonable doubt.

Camacho also determined that the testimonies of the police officers were different from their police report.

Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson prosecuted the case. Court-appointed counsel Richard W. Pierce served as counsel for the 29-year-old Angui.

The prosecution called to the witness stand the alleged victim and two other police officers and a civilian. The defense did not call any witness.

According to the charging information, Angui stole Police Sgt. Joe Saures' government issued Samsung Galaxy Fit S5670L—with a value of less than $250—on March 19, 2012, on Saipan,

Police detective Jonathan SN. Decena stated in his report that, on March 19, 2012, at 10:22pm, two police officers went to Tokyo Club in western Garapan to pick up Saures' cell phone from Hun Jin An. Saures left the cell phone at the club.

The responding officers were told that Angui, who was sitting with An's friend in the club, stole the cell phone.

An's friend allegedly saw Angui take the cell phone from the table and walk out of the club.

That same night, police officers spotted Angui near Rui Jin Store in western Garapan and arrested him.

Police said the suspect stated that he thought the cell phone belonged to An.

Angui pleaded not guilty.

Judge orders ex-Immigration captain to appear in court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered former CNMI Immigration captain Isidro T. Cabrera yesterday to appear in court to explain why he has not paid the balance of the $50,000 judgment he owes a woman whom he raped in 1996.

Failure to show up may result in the issuance of a warrant for Cabrera's arrest.

The judge directed Cabrera to appear in court on Aug. 22, 2012, at 10am to determining his ability to pay the balance of the amount owed and the fastest manner in which he can pay the judgment.

The court will also determine at the hearing what further action shall be necessary to ensure compliance with the judgment.

Manglona ordered Cabrera to bring with him financial statements, bank statements, records, writings, instruments, receipts, lists of real property and personal property, and other documents that may be necessary or relevant in determining his ability to pay and the manner in which judgment can be paid.

Manglona issued the order after attorney Joe Hill, counsel for the victim, filed last week a third motion for order in aid of judgment.

According to Hill, Cabrera has failed to make timely payments and is in arrears, with an outstanding balance of unpaid principal and interest of $33,923.58 as of July 25, 2012.

Hill said Cabrera's last payment was made on May 27, 2011 in the amount of $150.

Cabrera was sentenced to six years in prison on Sept. 18, 1997, for rape, oral copulation, and misconduct in public office.

The victim, a Chinese national, later filed a civil lawsuit in federal court against Cabrera. Cabrera settled the case by promising to pay the victim $50,000 on or before March 15, 2004.

In June 2010, Hill filed a motion to enforce judgment after Cabrera failed to make timely biweekly payments. At the time, he owed $29,921.55.

Federal court visiting judge Consuelo B. Marshall on the same month directed Cabrera to continue paying the $150 biweekly to the victim.

Faleomavaega: Proposal won't impact citizenship lawsuit

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Delegate Eni Faleomavaega's proposal to ask the Fono and the Togiola Administration to develop appropriate legislation to have the issue of U.S. citizenship placed on the November general election will not impact the citizenship lawsuit now pending in the federal court in Washington D.C., said Charles Alailima, the local attorney for the plaintiffs in the

lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of federal laws that deny automatic U.S. citizenship to persons born in American Samoa.

"We've been pleased with the support [this case] has received from American Samoans, both living in American Samoa and throughout the rest of the United States. Our legal challenge is only asking whether Congress can deny citizenship to people born in American Samoa," said Alailima responding to media inquiries. "That question is answered by the Citizenship Clause of the US Constitution as the court interprets it, not by a vote."

"We only ask the court to determine if people born in American Samoan are US citizens. Our legal challenge does not address or answer anything about American Samoa's future political status. That future political status is for the people of American Samoa to decide," he added.

Faleomavaega announced Thursday that he will be preparing appropriate communication to propose that the Togiola Administration and Fono develop legislation to authorize two important issues that should be presented before the voters of American Samoa on this year's November general election ballot. One question to be asked is if persons born in American Samoa should automatically be US citizens.

ALIEN

From Page 1

vance parole, even though I told them I'm not traveling outside the U.S.," the nurse working at a private clinic told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She was among those handpicked by the Northern Marianas Badminton Association to represent the CNMI in a tournament in Guam, and her Infopass appointment with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Saipan office was yesterday.

"I'm disappointed that traveling to Guam now costs $360 for an advance parole application that is more likely to be rejected by USCIS Guam. But I still encourage others with Infopass appointments with USCIS Saipan to show up on their appointment date," said the nurse, who has been working on Saipan since 2003.

The nurse said she brought up the case of Jershwin Angeles, who followed USCIS-Saipan's instruction to file for a $360 advance parole to go to Guam, only to have USCIS-Guam reject that application.

"But they told me that his case is different from my case. Since the beginning, USCIS said advance parole is only for travel outside the U.S., and I am only going to Guam which is a U.S. territory," said the nurse, who requested that her name not be published.

Angeles has a valid Commonwealth-only worker permit, while the nurse has a pending H visa application.

Angeles, who was eventually given parole by USCIS Saipan on Friday, said USCIS policies on travel to Guam or the U.S. are "frustrating, confusing, and inconsistent."

Another CW permit holder, Marilou Malasarte, was also denied parole and was told to apply for a $360 advance parole (Form I-139) instead.

Malasarte said she has a valid advance parole, but that advance parole she used to travel to the Philippines has a notation that says it cannot be used for travel to Guam or any part of the United States, she said.

A few more CW permit holders said they will still try to apply for parole with USCIS Saipan today and the next few days, to go to Guam.

Angeles, Malasarte, and the nurse said they were all told that policies about travel to Guam and the U.S. were just recently changed. They said they were referred to question #55 in USCIS's question-and-answer page under the transitional CW program resource page online.

USCIS reiterated that CW status is a CNMI-only transitional worker category, and no special benefit to travel anywhere else is attached to CW status. But it said it recognizes that those in CW status may have a legitimate reason to travel elsewhere in the United States, as they may have been allowed to do in the past as temporary visitors or parolees before acquiring the CNMI-only CW status.

USCIS said it has "made provisions reasonably to accommodate this within the limitations of a CNMI-only status, just as we have done on a case-by-case basis since 2009."

FAMILY

From Page 1

dolences to the bereaved family.

His father, Tinian resident Francisco "Frank" Mendiola, said the U.S. Army has been investigating the cause of death of his eldest son, whom he describes as a "loving, respectful, and kind" person.

"The investigation is not over yet. We might hear more from the Army on Tuesday, which is Monday in the U.S.," Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune*.

The family hopes that the Army specialist's remains will arrive on Tinian this week.

"We plan to bury him on Tinian," the father added. "I want Hanson to be remembered for his kindness. Everybody loves Hanson. People, when they learn that Hanson is my son, have been telling me that my son is a nice and kind person."

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, separately said "the community is shocked and saddened by the passing of Hanson."

"He is a bright young man who has so much to offer. He is a great loss to the people of our community. He will be missed," Hofschneider said.

He said the resolution being prepared in Mendiola's honor will be sponsored by the committee of the whole.

"On behalf of the delegation, I extend our deepest sympathy to the family," Hofschneider added.

The older Mendiola earlier said they were just told that his son was brought to the intensive care unit and that he passed away in Texas on July 22. His son was 29. He said they don't have any more details at this time.

The younger Mendiola joined the U.S. Army some four years ago, after teaching at Tinian High School for some two years. The father said his son graduated valedictorian in high school, and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Western Oregon University. He was stationed in South Korea for a year before going back to Fort Meade in Maryland. At the time of his death, he was on rest and recreation in Texas, the father said.

The late Army specialist was born on March 18, 1983, to parents Francisco "Frank" Mendiola and Erlinda Sangalang-Mendiola. A nightly rosary is being held at San Jose Church on Tinian at 8pm.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Saipan seats from 18 to nine. There will still be one representative each from the House and Senate, for a total of 11 proposed House seats.

Yesterday's release of the committee report, although dated July 24, comes barely a week before the Aug. 8 filing deadline for initiatives to make it to the Nov. 6 ballot.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the last-minute release of the report recommending a substitute version some 17 months since the original initiative's introduction does not bode well for the measure's passage.

"The way I see it, the changes to the initiative would make it more difficult for it to pass the House and the Senate. If it dies [today] in the House, at least I tried to have it presented to the people for them to decide on it," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The committee version is expected to be voted on during today's 3:30pm House session, on the eve of the Senate's Wednesday session.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a phone interview last night, said the "Senate is open to positively deliberate on proposals to restructure the Legislature."

He said the Senate will look into the amendments made, and it is likely that the Senate will have their amendments. But he said the Senate is open to a "compromise."

The House JGO panel version of the initiative also seeks to reduce the number of senators from each of the three islands—from three to two. This was not in the original version.

Despite Palacios' misgivings about the amended version of his initiative, he said he will still vote "yes" to it in today's session.

"The committee version retains the islandwide election for House members rather than by precinct. This will enable members to work together instead of working against each other, especially when it comes to appropriation of local money," he said.

Palacios also said some members don't realize that even if the initiative passes and is ratified by voters, the reduction in seats will take effect in 2014 and not during this midterm election.

He said should the initiative pass the House today, the Senate will be racing against time to act on it before the Aug. 8 deadline.

Acting House speaker George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), in a separate interview, said House Legislative Initiative 17-4, House Substitute 1 will need two-thirds "yes" vote from members present and voting if it were to pass in today's session.

Camacho is among those voting "no" to the initiative.

"I come from the smallest precinct," said Camacho, adding that in an islandwide election, the biggest precincts will have most, if not all, House seats. "So who's going to represent the people from this precinct?"

He said as it is now, Saipan is "already underrepresented" if we're going to apply the one-man, one-vote principle.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he has yet to read the committee version of the initiative but he supports the general principle of reducing the number of CNMI lawmakers.

"We have too many lawmakers. Guam has only 15 but the CNMI has 29, although their population is triple ours," he said.

As of yesterday, at least four members were off island, bringing the numbers present today to only at least 16. Camacho said 12 "yes" votes will be needed if there's 16 members present today, to pass the initiative.

The four-page JGO Committee report said the amendments to HLI 17-4 remedies the problems that concerned citizens identified during the May 2012 public hearings held on the measure.

The JGO panel, chaired by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), said the initiative's intent remains the same—"ensuring that the 18 representatives representing the island of Saipan [are] reduced to nine members elected at large in an islandwide election."

The substitute version has a language that cuts the number of senators by three, which will change the composition of the Senate consisting of six members with two members elected at large from each of the senatorial district.

The initiative will amend Article II Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the NMI Constitution to reduce the number of House seats from 20 to 11; the Senate seats from nine to six; provide islandwide elections; and change the term of representatives to four years.

House members have two-year terms.

A constitutional amendment a few years back added one year to House member's terms but this is only applies to the 17th Legislature. One year was also added to the current governor's second term. After this current term of the Legislature and the governor, the number of years for each term will go back to normal, unless new initiatives are passed changing the length of terms once again.

The JGO Committee said that Saipan's population has significantly declined, and a 20-member House is "currently too large given the ratio of members to constituents."

The panel also said reducing the number of House Saipan members from 18 to nine would result in some $1.4 million in annual savings. This comes from subtracting each member's annual salary of $39,300 together with their respective annual budgets of $78,000 each.

"This savings of $1,407,600 would be significant in light of the current economic circumstances," the panel said.

By reducing the number of lawmakers, "additional revenues would be available to fund the essential public services, namely health and welfare, safety, and the education of our children."

Some residents who spoke up during the May 2012 public hearings on the initiative asked lawmakers to pass HLI 17-4 "so that it will be placed on the ballot for the people to decide whether to vote for it or not."

"It's about time we take action to reduce this bloated government. Lawmakers should pass that legislative initiative to allow us voters to decide. Saipan is a small island with 18 House members. What better way to reduce this government than starting at the Legislature? The Legislature has become an employment agency," resident Herminia Fusco had said.

Tasi Tours also objects to request for chambers conference

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has no objections to the marine sports operators' request for a chambers conference with Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho to discuss the $62,034 bond requirement. Tasi Tours, however, has.

Tasi Tours' lawyer Glenn A. Jewell said the marine sports operators are merely asking the court to reconsider its order requiring the bond and the best way to convey that request is through a motion for reconsideration, "not a chambers conference."

A chambers conference refers to a private legal meeting with the judge, attorneys, and clients where members of the public are not present.

Jewell said the plaintiffs' request would be similar to Tasi asking for a chambers conference merely to ask the court to reconsider its preliminary injunction.

"That, too, would be an improper subject for a chambers conference. If Tasi requested it, the plaintiffs would be sure to object, and rightfully so," Jewell said.

If the marine sports operators wish to ask the court to reduce the amount of the bond, Jewell said they should file a motion, the defendants should have an opportunity to oppose it, and, if necessary, argument should be heard.

Camacho

F. Matthew Smith, lawyer for the marine sports operators, said the plaintiffs have attempted to do what they can to comply with the court's order granting a preliminary injunction and now seek to preserve its intent.

"Because the bond requirement has made that difficult to do so, plaintiffs sought a chambers conference with the judge and parties to discuss the matter and to try to and reach a resolution," said Smith in the plaintiffs' reply to Tasi Tours' opposition.

He said his clients and DPL were agreeable to a chambers conference but Tasi Tours objected—despite having requested and received from plaintiffs' an earlier chambers conference without any objection from plaintiffs.

Smith said the uncertainty of being granted a chambers conference due to Tasi Tours' objection has prompted them to file a motion to modify the bond requirement.

The marine sports operators earlier also filed a request for the court to immediately hold a hearing on their request to modify the court's bond requirement. DPL did not object. Tasi Tours, however, opposed.

Camacho is scheduled to hear the request to modify the $62,034 bond requirement on Thursday, Aug. 2.

Last Wednesday, marine sports operators filed a motion asking the court to either remove the bond or to only require a nominal bond.

In his July 19 order, Camacho granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

The judge, however, ordered the marine sports operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—to post a $62,034 bond.

FAMILY FUN DAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A girl tries to feed a caged rabbit during Ayuda Network Inc.'s 20th anniversary Family Fun Day at the Civic Center Court in Susupe on Saturday.

See more photos on Page 9

$1.2M CIP money reprogrammed for CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can now procure critically needed parts and supplies after Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Anthony M. Babauta approved the reprogramming of $1.247 million in CIP funds for the embattled utilities company.

Babauta was on island last week and met with government officials, including the CUC leadership.

CUC is still in state of emergency as a result of its cash-flow problems. The lack of funds has delayed important repairs and scheduled rehabilitation work.

In a statement yesterday, CUC disclosed that Babauta formally approved the grant that will enable the utility firm to purchase supplies and engine parts for its power generation systems. The monies were part of redirected CIP funds approved earlier this year by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"The funds were redirected from current CIP funding in recognition of CUC's financial struggles and to assist in strengthening the infrastructure against the threat of typhoon damage, thereby ensuring reliable generation and distribution of electricity to homes, businesses, schools, medical facilities, and public offices in the CNMI," CUC said in the statement.

Utilities officials stressed yesterday the importance of this grant award, noting that it is essential that power generation and the distribution system be rehabilitated to avoid large-scale failure of the infrastructure that would result in a widespread loss of power on the islands.

CUC, it said, is sensitive to the life-safety and quality of life issues that are dependent upon the reliable delivery of electric service to customers. This project will help CUC to partially rehabilitate its aging and deteriorating infrastructure by replacing some of the most vulnerable power generation parts, as well as replace 250 poles and transformers.

Angel Hocog seeks Board of Education seat

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The brother of the late respected educator Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos is seeking a seat in the State Board of Education, promising to continue the legacy of the Commonwealth's former education chief.

Angel Hocog confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that he made this decision following consultation with his family, who supports his candidacy wholeheartedly.

Hocog is the incumbent executive director of the Arts Council and formerly served as a member of the 9th Municipal Council. He will run for a BOE seat for Saipan, which has two slots up for grabs this midterm election.

Hocog graduated from Northern Marianas College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Hocog disclosed that his decision to run for a BOE seat was inspired by his deceased sister and family members who would like to continue Inos' legacy. He believes he will be an asset to the board in formulating sound policy decisions.

When asked about his top priorities if elected to the post, Hocog cited the need to continue to protect the interest of students and the system's employees at all levels. The need to seek more funding and assistance for education is also his priorities.

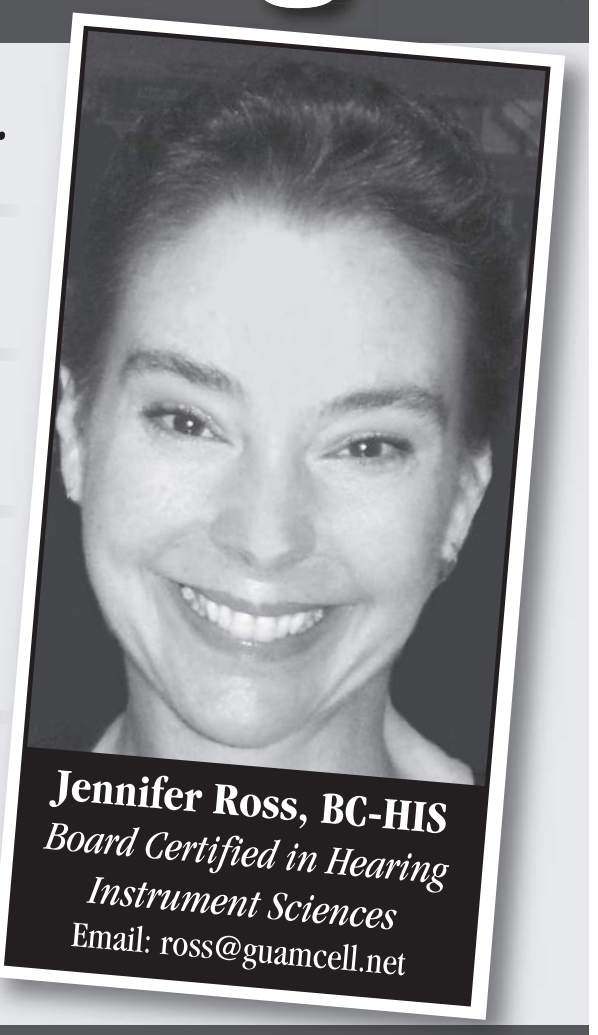
Hocog believes that the limited budget for public schools is hampering the delivery of quality education to children. He said he is also counting on the help and assistance of many supporters and friends of the former education commissioner to do his job.

Two other individuals have already announced their decision to run for a BOE seat in the Nov. 6 polls—Tanya King for Rota and Vic Cepeda for Saipan. The terms of BOE chair Marylou Ada and member Galvin Deleon Guerrero are expiring in January but both have yet to decide if they will seek re-election.

How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices



Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

- Friday, August 3rd 8:30am - 4:00pm
- Saturday, August 4th 9:00am - 1:00pm

at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

BOARD CERTIFIED NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION-HEARING INSTRUMENT SCIENCES NBC HIS

Ross Hearing Aids

Winners of the recently concluded Dream Big Read summer reading program pose for a group photo after the awarding ceremonies Saturday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sagana is top reader in JKPL's Dream Big Read program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Dream Big Read summer program marked another successful campaign this year after 89 children joined the monthlong activity at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The program's goal is to encourage and enhance reading interest among children.

The summer program ran from June 22 to 28 and encouraged participants to read books either at the public library or in the comfort of their homes. Throughout the campaign, JKPL monitored the number of books read by participants and rewarded them for their performance.

During closing ceremonies Saturday, Bonnie Gio Sagana was hailed the top reader with 486 books read throughout the program—miles beyond his target of just 50 books. Sagana is a third grader at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Celina Foreman, program coordinator and library assistant, said that Sagana demonstrated a keen interest in checking and reading books at the same time. He, along with all other readers, was awarded a certificate and gift items from the program's sponsors.

The second top reader was Froilan Gregory Camacho, who read 434 books. Camacho is a fourth grade student at Tanapag Elementary School.

The other top readers were Erin Mae Pan Tam, third place, with 289 books; Princess Rhyne Cania, fourth, with 275 books; and Princess Jadeanne Cania and Raven Mae Drina, tied for fifth, with 259 books read each.

Besides reading activities, JKPL held other initiatives in summer such as read aloud, movie nights, and cultural presentations. Foreman disclosed that since the summer reading program began in 2006, growth has been seen in both the participants' turnout and the overall reading performance of children.

She estimated that more than 4,000 children's books and other references were read throughout the program. Last year, JKPL had 61 participants in the Dream Big Read program.

One of the parents Froilan Camacho, said he supports the reading program because it will help his children prepare for the next school year. Camacho has been sending his three children to the library since summer started. He said it is his goal to see all his children become independent readers so they can learn on their own.

Camacho is the father of second top reader Froilan Gregory and sisters Alana and Kiana Camacho. Like his brother, Kiana shared that she was able to read 250 books throughout the program and is proud of it. She said reading will help her prepare for her next grade level.

Christine Ramangmou, a third grader from William S. Reyes Elementary School, was also happy and excited that she was able to read 130 books while her sister, Elicia, finished 217 books. They received their awards with their mother Patricia during Saturday's ceremonies.

Trial begins for woman who allegedly attacked husband with hot frying pan

The jury trial of a woman accused of attacking her then common-law husband with a hot frying pan began yesterday in the Superior Court.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos completed the selection of seven jurors who will decide the fate of the 33-year-old Carmelita Guiao.

After the prosecution's and the defense counsel's opening statements, the government called its first witness, the alleged victim.

The victim testified that when he arrived at their house at Sugar King Estate in December 2011 he saw Guiao eating breakfast while their children have not been fed. The victim said he got mad and decided to cook breakfast for their children. As he was cooking, Guiao cussed him and told him to leave the house.

He said Guiao went inside their bedroom and locked the door. He followed and forced the door open with a knife. He said he never threatened Guiao with the knife.

He said Guiao then repeatedly hit him with a hot frying pan. He said he tried to protect himself with his arms.

According to a police report, the victim managed to take the frying pan from Guiao and instructed their children to call the police.

As Guiao was telling her story to police officer Jason Tarkong, the fire alarm went off in the house's bedroom. The report said that Tarkong learned that Guiao had set fire to the victim's shoe and tried to flush it down the toilet.

Tarkong allegedly smelled a strong odor of alcohol on both the victim and Guiao.

The victim admitted in his testimony that he and Guiao had been drinking the night before their fight.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, assistant attorney general James McAllister was still questioning the victim.

In his opening statement, McAllister said they charged Guiao with assault with a dangerous weapon and other charges for hitting the victim thrice with a hot frying pan.

In his opening, assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti said the police reported that the victim sustained bruises and burns on the arms. He said photos, however, will show that the victim did not have bruises and burns.

"Pictures don't lie," he said.

He said the victim assaulted Guiao and that "in fact the bad actor here is not Guiao" but the alleged victim.

The trial will continue this morning, Tuesday.

Guiao has a separate case for allegedly chasing the victim and running him over with a car in Garapan. The victim suffered serious injuries. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

House floor leader is acting speaker; Fitial back on island

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a rare occasion in the CNMI Legislature's history, the House floor leader has been designated acting speaker because both the speaker and vice speaker are off-island at the same time.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) has been acting speaker since yesterday, and will be presiding over a 3:30pm session today wherein members are expected to, among other things, vote on a committee version of a legislative initiative that seeks to reduce the number of lawmakers.

"I'm just holding the fort down," Camacho said in an interview at his office yesterday afternoon.

Camacho

Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) has been off-island since June. In his absence, vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) was acting speaker.

Ogumoro, however, sent out a July 27 memo, informing members that she will be off-island from July 30 to Aug. 3 on official business.

"I hereby designate the floor leader, Rep. George Camacho, as the acting speaker until Speaker Cabrera returns. Please refer all matters pertaining to the Speaker's Office and the Vice Speaker's Office to the acting speaker during my absence," Ogumoro said in her one-page memo, a copy of which was obtained yesterday. Cabrera is expected to be back this week.

In other news, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is now back on island, acting press secretary Teresa Kim said yesterday.

Fitial was off-island for some three weeks for conferences and meetings in Williamsburg, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and San Francisco, California, among other things.

John Gonzales Live sets topics for August

John Gonzales Live has set its topics for the month of August with the CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association's Workforce Development Program dialed in on Aug. 1, "Parental Guidance and Leadership" on Aug. 15, and rights of disabled voters on Aug. 29.

Among the guests on Aug. 15's program about "Parental Guidance and Leadership" are Rose Kaipat, Lucy Norita Shilling, Josephine Rabauliman, Ronnie Chico, Connie Teregeyo, Mercy Usenuku, and Sister Stella.

John Gonzales Live airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week, all from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Channel 14.

The program also rebroadcasts worldwide on the Web via www.betelnutradio.com.

Viewers can participate by calling 287-4230, texting 285-6382, or emailing johngonzaleslive@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

WEDDED BLISS

Congratulations go out to Ivan and Marie Igitol on their 17th anniversary on July 28, 2012. The couple celebrated the special occasion at the Hafadai Beach Hotel, with their whole families witnessing the event. Greetings come from the Igitols and Salases families.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to Rayanna Barbara Torres Diaz! We love you! Greetings come from Grandma, Bobbie, Nana, Uncle Eric, and Auntie Audrey.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Marianas Resort's Pancha wins Saipan Top Chef competition

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Guam celebrity chef Peter Duenas, center, is flanked by the four contenders in this year's Saipan Next Top Chef Competition held at Pacific Islands Club Saturday. From left are chefs Jesse Aguon, Joshua Ngeskebei, Peter Duenas, champion Emmanuel Pancha, and Nemencio Tulio.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Chef Joshua Ngeskebei of Pacific Islands Club is shown preparing his dish for the competition.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

PIC manager Vicky Benavente, also one of the event's organizers, arranges the final entries prepared for judging.

Chef Jesse Aguon of Hyatt Regency Saipan puts the final touches on his creation and is assisted by a culinary arts student.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former dishwasher and now a proud section chef of Marianas Resort & Spa was named Saipan's Next Top Chef, after besting three other contenders in a rigorous competition on Saturday at Pacific Islands Club.

Emmanuel Pancha's pan-seared Angus beef bathed with shallots and peppered mango sauce got the approving nod of the judges to walk off with the $200 cash and gift prizes.

Pancha complemented his creation with potato pancakes with mascarpone and vegetable spaghetti. The entire concoction garnered an overwhelming 94 points from the competition's judges.

He admitted to being a bit nervous when the competition started but he drew courage from the support extended by his colleagues and executive chef who were among those in the crowd.

Pancha shared that it was only recently when he decided to do the dish, which took some weeks to perfect. He said it was his goal to come up with a simple and elegant dish made up of the local produce. After the weeks of preparation, Pancha, 45, whipped out the dish in the allotted 20-minute cooking time for the competition.

A first-timer to the contest, he described the event as fun and truly an experience. When asked if his new creation will be offered at Marianas Resort & Spa, Pancha said it would be up to the company's executive chef.

Hailed as the second best chef this year is Joshua Ngeskebei from Pacific Islands Club while Jesse Aguon from Hyatt Regency Saipan placed third. The fourth competitor was Nemencio Tulio of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

According to Guam celebrity chef and event host Peter Duenas, all participants did a great job—from the preparation to the presentation of their dishes—which emphasized the use of local produce. He also noted that the competition was for a good cause.

Duenas is the celebrity host of "TV Outdoor Chef" in Guam and is owner/executive chef of Meskla Bistro. He plans to air the Saipan competition in the program's next season.

Shelli Neal, coordinator for the event, described the competition's turnout as "wonderful." The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, she said, sold tickets way more than capacity. This mark's the second edition of the contest, the proceeds of which will help the nonprofit organization in its charitable projects.

PIC manager Vicky Benavente said that Chef Duenas' presence was a factor in the large number of sales tickets. PIC was among the event's major sponsors.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DPS-076

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"AUTOMATED STATE IDENTIFICATION AND DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTHER **JULY 25, 2012** AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL CONFRERENCE** WILL BE HELD ON **AUGUST 09, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, CONFERENCE ROOM, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS MAY SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS: **jcdlguerrero@dps.gov.mp** ATTN: SERGEANT JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, PROJECT MANAGER, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 13, 2012.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WILL BE SENT OUT NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 15, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

July 23, 2012

TO: ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated June 30, 2007, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: June 30, 1997; $11,765.07

(c) Amount due for principal: $349.32 as of June 1, 2012

(d) Amount due for interest: $2,400.68 as of June 1, 2012

(e) Daily accruing interest: $0.75

If the principal, interest, and late charges $2,750.00 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Junio dia 30, 2007, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sitio Numeru 002 G 245 ni gaigi Kagman II, Saipan, Islas Marianas, san kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 903 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulamenti diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, gi Mayo dia 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 90-1904, Saipan, guihi I discripcion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Junio 30, 1997; $11,765.07

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $347.32 asta ki June 1, 2012

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $2,400.68 asta ki June 1, 2012

(e) Interes kada dia: $0.75

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $2,750.00, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Fed officials to travel to Pacific Islands

Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt M. Campbell and Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Cecil Haney will lead an interagency delegation to the Pacific Islands on Aug. 1-7.

The delegation will include Jeff Prescott, Special Adviser for Asian Affairs at the Office of the Vice President, and Gloria Steele, USAID Mission Director for the Philippines and the Pacific Islands.

This second annual interagency delegation to the Pacific underscores the United States' commitment to working with our Pacific Island partners to secure a sustainable, prosperous, and peaceful future.

The delegation will arrive in Tonga on Aug. 1. On Aug. 2, they will travel to Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. On Aug. 4, the delegation will travel to Palau and Papua New Guinea. It will arrive in the Solomon Islands on Aug. 6.

At each stop, the delegation will meet with senior government leaders and civil society groups to discuss cooperation on bilateral, regional and global issues, including security, development, and climate change.

The delegation will also participate in events commemorating the 70th anniversary of World War II battles and visit U.S.-supported projects to improve health, education, environmental protection, and women's empowerment.

The delegation returns to Washington, D.C. on Aug. 8. ***(PR)***

DEQ cleanup at Sugar Dock, Aquarius Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Sugar Dock and Aquarius Beach this Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Sugar Dock Pavilion.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

Last month, the cleanup at Wing Beach was successful, with 12 volunteers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and family members participating. A total of 80 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and properly disposed off. D&Q provided the refreshment drinks.

DEQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on August 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

Naval hospital to hold change of command, retirement ceremonies

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam— Capt. Jeff Plummer will relieve Capt. Kevin Haws as commanding officer of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam during a change of command ceremony Aug. 3.

Dr. William Kiser, retired U.S. Navy rear admiral, will be the guest speaker. Kiser served as a staff physician at USNH Guam from 1982-1984. He returned to the hospital in 2000 and served as executive officer. He served as USNH Guam commanding officer from 2001-2003. Kiser recently retired in June after 38 years of service in the Navy.

Plummer is reporting to Guam after serving as executive officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.

Haws will retire from the Navy immediately following the change of command ceremony. He served in the Navy for 34 years both as an enlisted Sailor and a commissioned officer. ***(PR)***

TES kindergarten enrollment

Kindergarten registration at Tanapag Elementary School has started and will run up to Aug. 3, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the main office of the school campus. There will be only 20 slots for kindergarten. It's a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements include a registration form, health clearance/ certificate, birth certificate, proof of guardianships, and map of residency. For more information, contact the main office at 237-3162/4. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

RAFFLE WINNERS

Nineteen-year-old Jun Angui from Kagman wins the first prize, a mountain bike, in the Mountain Dew Tour Sweepstakes raffle held on July 27, 2012, at the Kagman Market.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edwin Taitano, 24, also from the Kagman community, wins the grand prize of $500 cash in the Mountain Dew Tour Sweepstakes raffle held on July 27, 2012, at the Kagman Market.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 30, 2000

NMI mulls inviting Bush to drop by

Taking off on a suggestion by Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, the Babauta administration is now drafting a letter inviting President George W. Bush to swing by the Marianas region on his way to the APEC summit in Thailand this coming October. Babauta told reporters yesterday that he has already received Tenorio's letter and his office is now acting on the matter. "We are drafting a letter to invite the president to consider coming through here, through the CNMI, and that's about all that we can do-extend the invitation to him," said Babauta. Should Bush agree to the idea, Babauta said this would be a boost to the CNMI and would mark the first time that a sitting U.S. president would visit the Northern Marianas.

NMC Opens new CNMI-CREES facility in Rota

Advancement in the effort of Northern Marianas College CNMI Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service in Rota works to provide information and educate the community of Rota on agriculture, aquaculture, and family related programs begins in the construction of their new research facility. The NMC-CNMI CREES Rota facility will serve as the main office for the Integrated Pest Management Project, under which staff members from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Integrated Pest Management island leader Alejandro Badilles, are trained to monitor and control the insect posts and weeds that are affecting the farm crops on island.

July 31, 2002

Lack of budget ties up CUC's hand

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday blamed budgetary constraints as the reason for its failure to monitor water distribution contaminants last year, including lead and copper. CUC executive director Bernard P. Villagomez said this, as he assured that his office is pressing for the budgetary requirements for the tests. "The acting executive director vows that the community utility aggressively works to increase its water quality budget to comply with emerging regulations," a CUC statement said. "Violations received last year resulted when the budget wasn't approved for water sampling inside of customer homes, where lead and copper piping is tested," it said.

Council OK's respite services program

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities approved the proposed creation of the Commonwealth respite program aimed at providing respite services to parents of children with disabilities. In a general membership meeting held Thursday, the Council unanimously approved the adoption of a family support legislation for respite care to help parents of children with disabilities in the Commonwealth. In addition to the adoption of the measure, the Council also elected its new set of officers who will be taking over the leadership effective October 1, 2002. Elected as GCDD chair is Mariano K. Camacho; vice chair is Lydia M. Sablan; and secretary is Margaret Torres-Aldan.

July 31, 2003

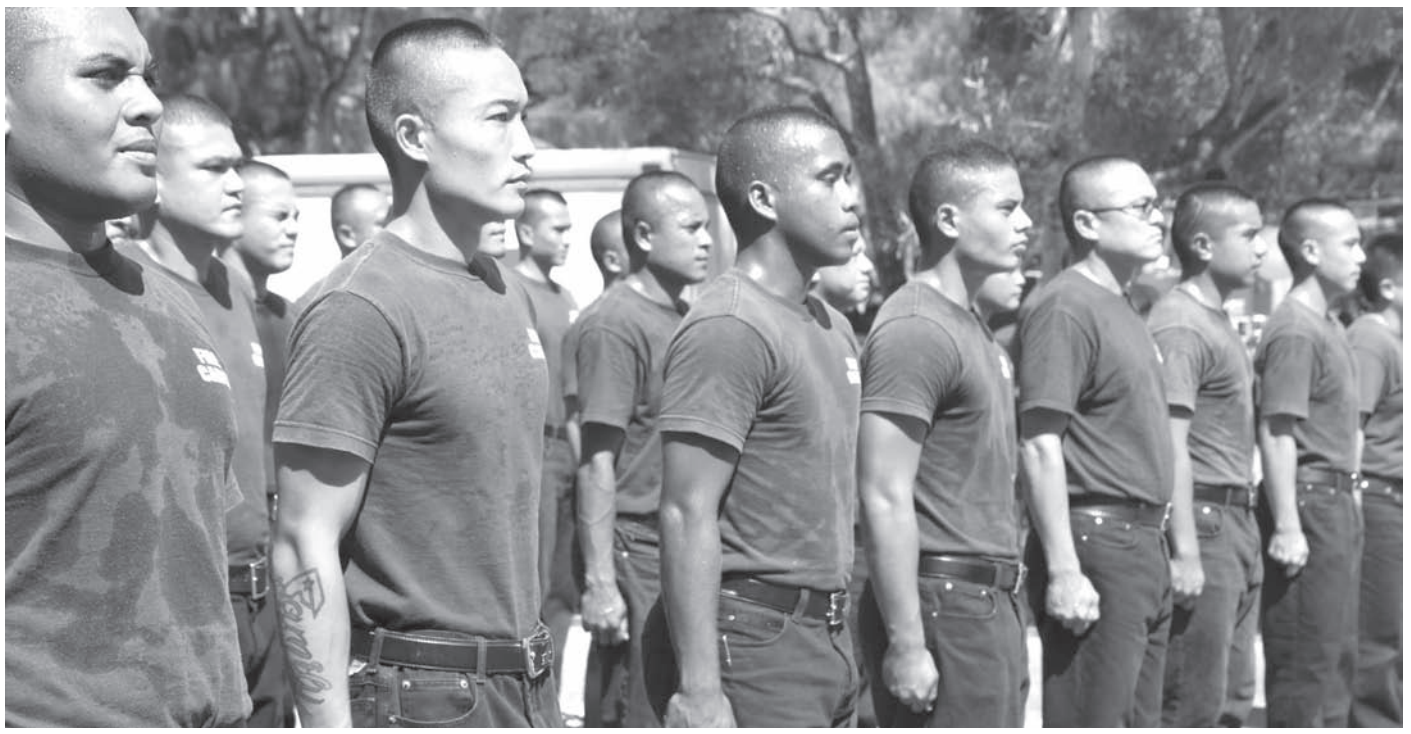
Legislature asked to clarify PSS expenditure authority over CIPs

Despite an unfavorable court ruling and a pending bill that would strip the Public School System of its power to handle school construction projects, the Board of Education remains adamant and has asked the Legislature to intervene and clarify the PSS' expenditure authority over its projects. "The Legislature needs to clarify the expenditure role of PSS because we should have a say in school contracts," said BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero. Guerrero also said PSS attorneys are still studying their legal options, following a court ruling affirming that the Department of Public Works has the contracting authority over disputed school projects on Rota and Saipan.

NMI submits over $70K in Cardizem drug claims

The CNMI government has submitted validated Cardizem claims worth more than $70,000 from Medicaid and Group Health and Life Insurance members who purchased the high blood pressure drug that was illegally kept off the market for one year since July 1998. House U.S. and Foreign Affairs Committee chair William S. Torres confirmed yesterday that the CNMI is expecting an entitlement of $20,000 in this generic drug case settlement, although the claims validated amount to more than this figure.

Family Fun Day



Department of Public Safety fire cadets stand at attention as part of an exhibition during Ayuda Network Inc.'s 20th anniversary Family Fun Day at the Civic Center Court in Susupe on Saturday. Family Fun Day was among the highlights of Ayuda Network's 20th anniversary celebration.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the International Association of Lions Clubs on Saipan pose for a group photo during Ayuda Network Inc.'s 20th anniversary Family Fun Day at the Civic Center Court in Susupe on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A booth offering free painting attracts many young artists.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Northern Marianas College's Research, Extension and Education Service personnel prepare healthy dishes.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Registered nurse Helen He, left, of Hardt Eye Clinic checks the glucose level of Yolanda Lizama, right.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Michael Odoshi, 5, gets a temporary Spiderman-themed face paint from Bonnie Royal, right, administrative manager at Northern Marianas College's Research, Extension and Education Service.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Catherine Basto, 9, gets a temporary butterfly face paint from Bonnie Royal, right, administrative manager at Northern Marianas College's Research, Extension and Education Service, during Ayuda Network Inc.'s Family Fun Day at the Civic Center Court in Susupe on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kids enjoy the jump house while parents watch the live entertainment on stage.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

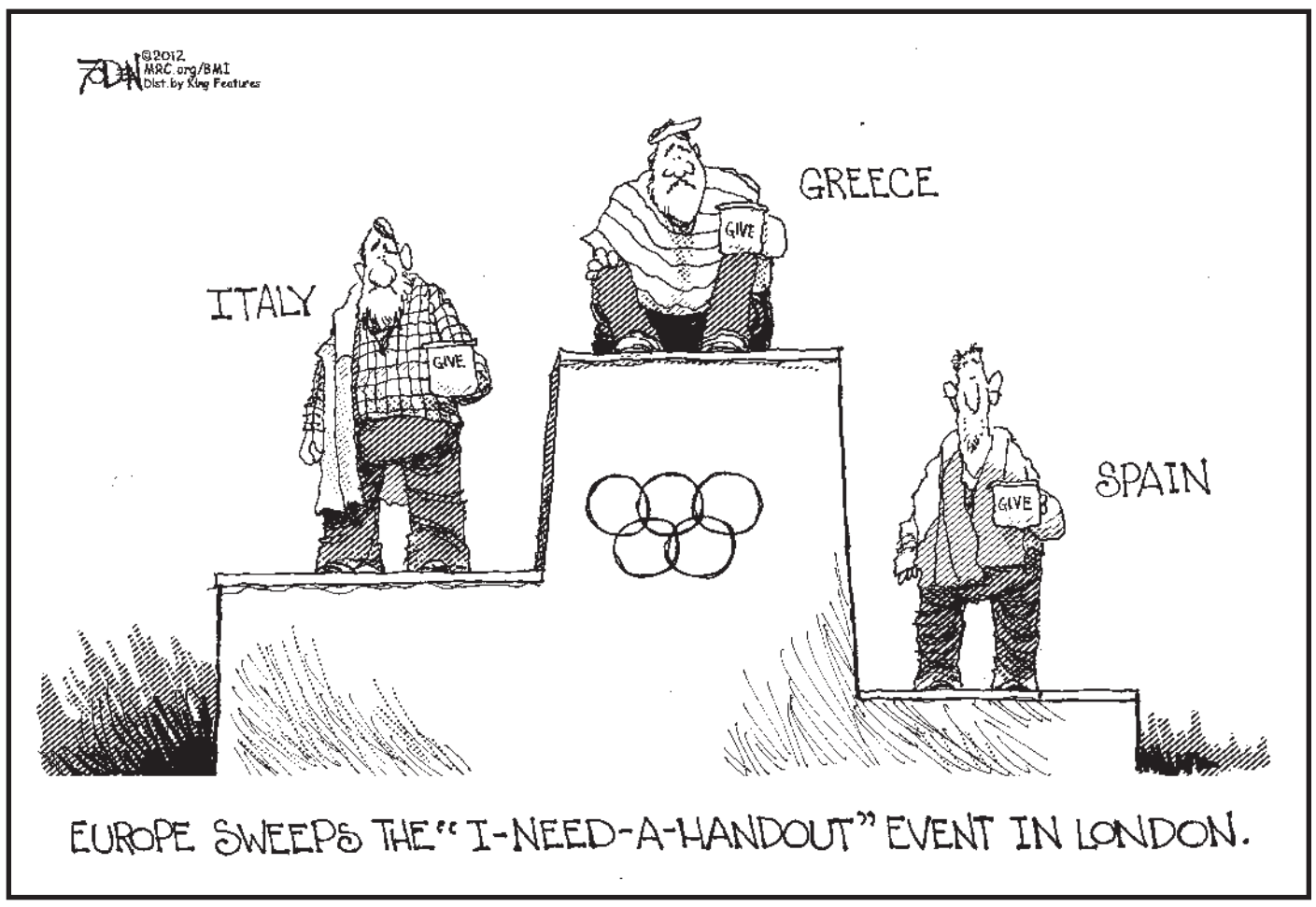
Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 180

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

An Olympic moment for women

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Friday, July 27:*

The official opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympics take place Friday in London, but the Games have already made history: This is the first Olympics in which all of the more than 200 participating countries have sent female athletes to compete. The U.S. team has more women than men for the first time—269 female athletes to 261 men.

The countries of Brunei, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are fielding female athletes, something they have never done. In a dramatic last-minute turnaround, Saudi Arabia is permitting two women to compete—one in judo and another as an 800-meter runner. Saudi Arabia has been rightly criticized for failing to offer women opportunities to play and compete in sports, as outlined in a recent report by Human Rights Watch.

One of Qatar's female athletes, air-rifle shooter Bahiya al-Hamad, will carry the flag for her country at the opening of the Games. The world's top-ranked female saber fencer, Mariel Zagunis, will carry the U.S. flag.

These are huge accomplishments for women and for the International Olympic Committee, which has aggressively promoted the inclusion of women in general and which lobbied the Saudis in particular.

Muslim women from various countries will run, shoot and scull, among other endeavors, and they will be allowed to do so in athletic clothing that still hews to the modest dress required by their religion.

Some of these women are competing by virtue of invitation from the IOC or the governing bodies of their sports. They did not all qualify by winning an array of trial competitions. But that's part of encouraging countries that have either been resistant to sending women or done little to foster them in competitive sports.

The work is not completely done. Women still need better access to competitive sports in many places in the world, so that in the future they won't need a helping hand to participate in the Olympics. The subject of attire should not be a stumbling block. Soccer's governing body last year forbade women, out of safety concerns, to wear head scarves—forcing the Iranian women's soccer team to give up a chance at qualifying for this year's Games. Since then, that rule has been changed. However, clothing continues to be controversial: The International Judo Federation announced Thursday that because of safety concerns, it would not allow female athletes to wear head scarves, which poses a potential problem for the Saudi contestant. And there is a legal battle to allow women to participate in canoeing, which inexplicably remains closed to them in the Olympics.

Still, the presence of women from every country at the Summer Olympics is something to celebrate, even before any medals are bestowed.

©2012 Los Angeles Times

From Russia with love

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Daniel Craig, the current double-0h-seven Bond, escorted Queen Elizabeth to tape a clip for the London Olympic opening, and a properly suited double jumped into the center of the ceremonial opening. Just when we thought the English gave up drama after Shakespeare! The James Bond of my era (Sean Connery) came to mind as we turned tourist into the tri-border gates of China, Mongolia, and Russia. Ian Fleming took the three governments, or rogue sections within them, as the villains against Her Majesty's service. We balanced it off with Le Carre's Smiley who always knew there was a mole feeding M1 intelligence to the Reds!

When I went to the United States in the '60s, I resolved to spend my first summer in the West Coast, the second in the Midwest, and the third in the East Coast. I did. I also planned on returning to Pea Eye through Europe to the Far East to complete a round-the-world trip. I didn't. It was 15 years later, when we finally did an 80-day journey from Chicago to Manila via Mumbai, Colombo and Singapore, to finally accomplish our intent.

Plan A was to fly to London, take the rail to Paris, go Europass around circling to St. Petersburg, proceed to Moscow and catch the trans-Siberian line to Vladivostok; then seek passage to Yokohama, and on to Manila.

But this was the '60s, and the Civil Rights movement was in full swing running from yard cross burnings and ferocious German dogs of Confederacy diehards, for some, and for others, burning their draft cards and hieing it to Canada after the acceleration of military action in Vietnam. We discovered later of the deceptive basis of the Gulf of Tonkin resolution but that came too late.

The parliament of the street took precedence over classroom learning so we took longer to finish our master's degree past the three years we originally allotted for it.

We also married a German-Welsh-Scot lassie from outside of Chicago. That pretty much dictated Plan B. I went back to Pea Eye on the cheapest route to prepare for my bride to join me in three months.

So, coming to the Russian border on the summer of our sunset has a personal effect on our sentiments. Not quite through Russia and Siberia as we originally intended but we got close enough. After a day in Manzhouli, a Russian city for all purposes save the Chinese proprietors and the additional Zhongwen signage, we already felt ourselves to be on Russian soil.

I was in Heihe, Heilongjiang by the Amur a year earlier, another haven for Russian shoppers, but I could not cross the river for lack of a visa, so this time I went to the Russian Consulate in Shenyang to apply for one, hoping to hop from Manzhouli to Ulan Ude near Lake Baikal for a couple days before heading south to Mongolia's Ulan Batur. There was need for an invitation from a Russian entity, or a warranty from a licensed tour office in China. That entailed a fee, plus the visa costs of $145, a reciprocal price to what the U.S. charges visa applicants. I wonder if my Saipan driver's license would spell a visa difference since we treat Russian tourist on a preferential basis?

Not to be too Ilocano cheap, though we were, we skipped plans to cross over and resolved to, at least, stand at the border. I did. It was an experience and a half.

I saw one-up-manship (yup, has to be a macho thing) in the imposing Guo Hua, the people's gate, which dwarfed the Russian counterpart by more than half. The China side still kept its old "Chinatown" gate—usually found in Guogong palaces—but the new seven-story structure out-Russkie the Bolshevik Cossacks' own propensity toward edifice complex.

It was a tourist trap, of course. On this visit, the two elevators were inoperable in the middle of a busy summer season. Tourists, including elders, walked the seven landings, with two gift shops waiting on each floor. The seventh floor served as a ceiling for the ground floors split by the China-Russia rails, and offering a panoramic view of the border of the three countries. It is worth the walk if one holds on to one's wallet!

A decade ago, Mongolia and Russia were ahead in the industrialization game—public works, construction, and real estate. Now China has superseded both, and the Chinese do not hesitate to display the difference. China built international trade centers in its side replete with Russian signage, and cheap goods for the Russian consumer.

Being the second half of the old Mongol empire, I thought the Mongolian theme would be played up in Nei Menggu. Not so. Russian knick-knacks labeled "Made in Russia" (fake) are sold to gullible Chinese tourists.

The Manzhouli-Moscow train are two different rail sizes so Chinese mechanics equip their international run to access both systems. I could not fathom the mechanics required but to know that the engineering of both sides are employed to accommodate the need is a good sign of good neighbor relations.

The barbwires are something else, but then, after our rail trip from Houston to L.A. earlier, the fence along the Mexican border is nothing to brag about either.

"Laying one's life through the barbwires of history," was a metaphor we borrowed from the WWII U.S. Marines in Tarawa. Viewing both Mongolia and Russia from the sparkling steel barbwires of Manzhouli, China, is not very assuring of good neighborly relations!

Still, London found cause to deploy ground-to-air missiles at the London Olympics 2012. I wonder who they thought might intrude. Must be the Americans!

Welcome to the 21st century.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why the youth are so fortunate to be raised on Saipan

Dr. DEAN PAPADOPOULOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The recent Manta Ray Band story made me put-together a motivational presentation that I want to present here as text at what is a perfect time—before the school year begins and while young adults and complete adults contemplate whether they should enroll at the only accredited college on the island, Northern Marianas College. The presentation is titled "Eight Reasons Why If I Had to Choose Where I Was Raised I Would Choose Saipan."

Everybody Gets A Chance

Much of what we say will have to do with that nature and benefits of living in a small, and as it also turns out, isolated region of the world—and that includes this point. Throughout rural America—that is, farming America—the benefit that is known to young people there is the same as here: If you want to try something, you can—even if you're not good at it. But, if it's your passion and perhaps your calling to develop that skill you can here on Saipan.

I will use my own place as a comparison and how what works here would not work there. I was on the North Shore of Chicago, which are the suburbs directly north of the Chicago—the third largest city in a country that is the third most populous in the world. It has 9 million people in it, and to give you a taste of that scale, my high school had 5,000 students in it and my graduating class had about 1,100 students in it. It has a 98 percent rate of students who go on to college. It is where the mayor of Chicago went to school, where Donald Rumsfeld went to school, where Anne Murray and Charlton Heston went to school…I could go on…but I won't. In my township, if you weren't already good at something, you simply did not get a chance, and that's why if I could, I would decide to grow up here.

No Distractions

No distractions allow you to deal with the goals you set for yourself without—you guessed it—distractions! Distractions are no small thing. Often, people who come from places that are large in land size and have a large population basically are not good at any one thing except, perhaps, dealing with distractions. The metropolitan area of Chicago, which includes the city and all surrounding suburbs, is 30 miles long from north to south. Add 9 million people and a couple million cars and you have the distraction of traffic, delays, noise, pollution, and the stress of it all. In my case, and in my family's business and particularly where those businesses were in the city, the major stress for me were the gangs—there are 150,000 gang members in Chicago—and that's stressful.

On Saipan, the absence of distractions allows for any one to take up a skill—let's call it an instrument here since that's what inspired this presentation which is now in written form—and build the skills that it takes without being interrupted by having to get in a car for a two-hour drive back to your house, or to pick up a sibling, or to visit family. That time away from distraction is why I would choose to be raised here on Saipan.

Solitude Allows You to Get Very Good at Something

A few little-known facts about geniuses include a) 75 percent of them are introverts and b) almost 100 percent of them are made, not born, geniuses. There's quite a bit of literature and research on this, and if you're interested consult the area of your library called Cognitive Psychology. What is it about the introvert that is so much like living on an island? The wherewithal to deal with solitude in a way that allows you to think deeply about what you're doing, that is to know it well enough so that you can improve it and to be comfortable with hours on your own is almost part and parcel with living on an island. Solitude is that nature here, if one so chooses to embrace it. Coupled with a passion to learn and master a skill, it is the greatest gift that living on an island provides.

Islands Breed and Attract People Who are Very Good at Things

As a result of this solitude, lack of distractions, and everyone getting a chance, there tend to be a high number of people who are very good at specific skills. Let me deal with an objection that I hear: Why don't we hear about these experts? My answer is this: Don't get confused with the norms of collectivistic societies, like this one on Saipan, and the taboo of boasting with the lack of expertise. If you do, you'll miss the boat—or perhaps find yourself getting on a plane out of frustration! There are excellent organizers here, front man and front women here who could sell you anything and do, there are exceptionally spiritual people here who minister to others and who serve ritual needs in times of people's needs that are ordained and appointed by God to do so who don't need or have the training of the seminary or a religious order. There are others who have great culinary skills and are fantastic cooks. There are other who are great with the earth and the seeds, still others who know what to do with boats and the sea. I could go on with the great educators and politicians and attorneys, engineers and physicians that are here, both Western physicians and local physicians.

Islands also attract people who are excellent at what they do. Let's stick with our Manta Ray Band story and see in it the passion of Will DeWitt, the high school band teacher who has dedicated two decades of his life to the community. He is the son of a physician who didn't take the easy road to medical school and a practice that awaited him. Instead he took the difficult road of discovering dreams, because dreams are discovered, not designated—even by well-meaning parents. He sacrificed as only he would know. As you and I both know, he hasn't made a physician's salary, nor has he lived in the neighborhoods where he was raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis. But he was appointed by God to follow the gift he was given and to share the gift where God had intended him to share it with—with the students of the public school system on Saipan. His reward for obeying God and for working hard is to be listed as the No. 2 band in the world, which happens to come from where we all live. How wonderful is that!?

People Skills

When people have to live in close proximity to each other, they develop superior social skills that are sought after in the world of work, I tell my students at Northern Marianas College. As a person who has worked for a consultant and whose family is in that business, companies have been paying thousands of dollars for what they call "high context" training. In other words, how to get along with people. The reason why people who move to the states do so well and end up staying there are because of these skills that allow them to make friends and build fast and solid relationships with their supervisors, colleagues, and customers. I know this well: two of my roommates in college were from the island of Saipan.

I would decide to be raised here to develop this important skill of respecting and working with people because it is a skill that allows one to be with all people in all areas of our life.

Go Slow When Everyone Else is Going Fast

To do something well and to do it naturally and automatically requires you to go slow and to break up whatever skill you're learning. If you want to ruin something, like accomplishing a skill or the goal of graduating high school or college there is a recipe for it: Go fast. If you go fast, you will ruin it. On Saipan, we are encouraged to go slow, simply by the pace of everything around us, including the traffic. We don't have to slow down here, but sometimes we have to encourage our self to speed up—what a wonderful and strange problem to have in a world that's going too fast.

Who's going too fast? Technology has pushed things to go faster than have ever before and we respond accordingly. If our computer doesn't boot up right away, we have no problem contemplating the purchase of the newest model. If the microwave doesn't make our food in three minutes, we start to lose it.

We can go slow on Saipan, and we're encouraged to by the pace of life here. Let's revisit our example, the Manta Ray Band. Remember, it's taken 20 years of learning by the conductor and the school system and a couple generation of young teenagers to be world-renowned musicians. In short, it takes going slow at a steady speed in a clear direction with a lot of effort and total faith to master a skill. The Manta Ray Band didn't accomplish this overnight, or over a semester or even a school year. They went slow and got it right because they went slow.

Look at enduring accomplishments throughout the world to see the same "slowness" variable at work, beginning with what's available here on Saipan. Have you ever visited Tinian and Rota to see the great latte stones—those stones will last thousands of years just as they are because the architects and engineers and laborers of that era went slow to build them. How about the collective wisdom of sailing and the winds and the currents and the birds that are a part of the Carolinian culture—all that happened because people went slow and saw the nuances in the types of birds and the debris in the ocean and the alignment of the stars that taught them how to get from one point on Earth to another—no GPS for them, just slow, meticulous investigation into this seafaring skill.

Identify With A Place

Many people in modern societies move from the place they were raised to where they work, like me and many others who have left their ancestral homeland on Saipan and have moved to the cities and towns of the United States. Identity that is wound up in the love of a land because it is the place from where your people come from is a very important and sometimes rare part of the experience of people who come from very large places. Where I grew up had nothing to do with my ancestors or ethnicity or patriotism or race—it was simply based on class. I lived around other families who earned a similar income to that which my parents earned—not a whole lot below the superficial level, although I had another place that identified with even more, my place of birth and the place of my parents' birth in the country that is home to many firsts, including the idea of democracy—Greece.

If I had to choose to be raised somewhere it would be here on Saipan, a place where there is a strong connection of the land to the identity of the person. That's very important and we need to talk about this and the other things. If we get carried away with cars and clothes and cable, we can lose sight of the only things really worth knowing about, and our link to the land in a relationship that can be described as love is one of those important ideas we should embrace.

Identify With a People

Knowing who we are has everything to do with knowing who we belong to and who belongs to us. It is possible to travel so much that home really is a strange and perhaps unknown concept. We get philosophical and we say that, "Home is where I am," or, "Home is with whom I'm loved." All of this is good and true—these are utterances I make. But an identity with a people is an important aspect of ourselves as human beings. Whether we're Americans or Greeks or human beings or Chamorros or Carolinians or Pacific Islanders is really up to each person's heart to decide. It is fair to say, however, that the people who were raised here have no confusion about this at all. The point here is that when we are comfortable in our own shoes, so to speak, then we are comfortable with others who fit nicely in their own shoes, and we avoid the two problematic expressions of humanity that create more problems than anything else: trying to turn others into ourselves and our group and trying to be what others are. A wise saying goes like this: Be yourself, everyone else is taken. It is accompanied by this: Respect someone else, especially in their differences, but never try to turn them into you because this is a source of much of the conflict between people and peoples.

Saipan celebrates its people and that's a good thing!

Stay in school where you will meet people who are at least as interesting as your parents and grandparents are and where you can learn things that will add to what your parents and grandparents can teach you.

Dr. Dean Papadopoulos in an English instructor at the Northern Marianas College.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let NMIRF board pay for legal fees

The NMIRF board decided to file for bankruptcy without consulting retirees. Now the Fund is stuck with about a half a million dollars in legal fees. Their reckless decision to file for bankruptcy without consulting members is very irresponsible. This is just going to make the Fund even more broke.

The bankruptcy attorney fees should be paid for by the NMIRF board themselves instead of by the Fund since the stakeholders were not consulted.

It's time for the NMI government to pay its employer share instead of overpaying political hires. Change the NMIRF board and put in real professionals who know how to manage the Fund's finances. We are running out of time to save the Fund. Don't follow the "Let it be" mentality. Do something now!

Antonio Aldan
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest to south winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest to south winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest to south winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest to south winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest to south winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

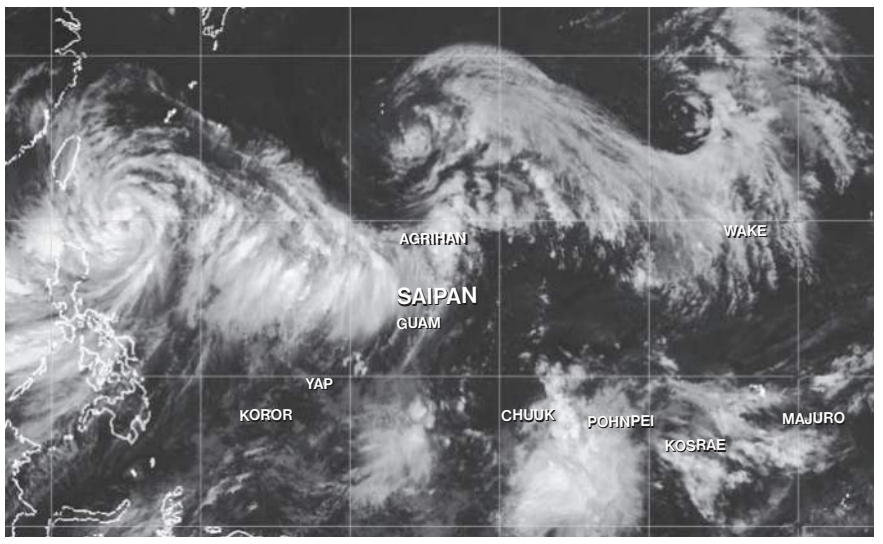
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Rain	▲71	▼69
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
London	Rain	▲70	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲81	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼37
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼69
Osaka	Sunny	▲94	▼77
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼72
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲90	▼75
Tokyo	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 30, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Tropical Storm Saola (10W) centered near Luzon at 20N125E across the Marianas and Chuuk state to end south of Pohnpei at 4N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of the Marianas between 14N and 21N from 130E to 145E aoutheast of Yap between 1N and 9N from 141E to 146E and across portions of Chuuk and Pohnpei states between the equator and 10N from 151E to 160E. Tropical Storm Damrey (11W) is centered near Iwo To island at 26N145E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are present across the far Northern Marianas within 150 miles of a line from 17N146E to 22N149E and from near Iwo To island to Wake Island north of a line from 24N144E to 23N148E to 15N160E to 15N162E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae and across portions of the Marshall Islands between 2N and 9N from 161E to 173E. An upper-level low centered northwest of Wake Island at 26N162E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north and west of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 18N165E to 25N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:02 PM	3:44 AM
Wednesday	5:55 PM	4:45 AM
Thursday	6:43 PM	5:45 AM
Friday	7:28 PM	6:42 AM
Saturday	8:10 PM	7:37 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Eurogroup chair sees decisions soon in debt crisis

BERLIN (AP)—The German and Italian leaders issued a new pledge to protect the eurozone, while the influential eurogroup chairman was quoted Sunday as saying that officials have no time to lose and will decide in the coming days what measures to take.

The weekend comments capped a string of assurances from European leaders that they will do everything they can to save the 17-nation euro. They came before markets open for a week in which close attention will be focused on Thursday's monthly meeting of the European Central Bank's policy-setting governing council.

Last Thursday, ECB President Mario Draghi said the bank would do "whatever it takes" to preserve the euro—and markets surged on hopes of action.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Premier Mario Monti "agreed that Germany and Italy will do everything to protect the eurozone" in a phone conversation Saturday, German government spokesman Georg Streiter said, a statement that was echoed by Monti's office.

That was nearly identical to a statement issued Friday by Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, which followed Draghi's comments.

Though they didn't pledge any specific action, the comments raised expectations that the ECB might step in to buy Spanish and perhaps Italian government bonds to lower the countries' borrowing costs, which have been worryingly high in recent weeks. Another possibility might be for the eurozone's temporary rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, to buy bonds.

"What measures we will take, we will decide in the coming days," Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg prime minister who also chairs meetings of the eurozone finance ministers, or eurogroup, was quoted as telling the German daily Suedde-utsche Zeitung. "We no longer have any time to lose."

Italy and Spain have the eurozone's third- and fourth-largest economies, respectively, behind Germany and France.

Merkel and Monti agreed that decisions made by last month's European Union summit "must be implemented as quickly as possible," Streiter said, again echoing Friday's Merkel-Hollande statement.

Those included allowing Europe's bailout fund—once a new, independent bank supervisor is set up—to give money directly to a country's banks, rather than via the government. Countries that pledge to implement reforms demanded by the EU's executive Commission also would be able to tap rescue funds without having to go through the kind of tough austerity measures demanded of Greece, Portugal and Ireland, which have had to get international bailout packages.

AP

Demonstrators gather at a meeting holding a placard with a drawing representing Bankia bank, PP and PSOE, the two major political parties, with a euro sign on his heads reading "we ask for the cooperation of the Spanish people" during a protest against government financial cuts and the €23.5 billion bailout of lender Bankia, in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, July 29, 2012.

Earnings perform like 2009; Boos then, boos now

By JOSHUA FREED
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Nobody in Corporate America wants to go back to 2009, but by one measure companies are there right now.

Based on the 291 companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 that have reported earnings so far—along with estimates for the rest—S&P Capital IQ expects overall profits to decline by half a percent from the same period a year ago. That would be the first time that profits have shrunk since the third quarter of 2009, just after the Great Recession. Analysts are predicting that earnings will shrink 0.3 percent for the third quarter, too.

Revenue for those 291 companies has increased just 2.3 percent, compared with a 10-year average of 7.1 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Worse, companies are getting more pessimistic about the rest of the year.

Companies that should benefit from a recovery are instead getting ready for a slowdown. UPS, the world's largest package delivery company, said it expects the global economy to get worse before it gets better. It lowered its profit forecast for 2012. Cisco Systems said it will lay off 1,300 people and warned that revenue for the current quarter will grow much less than expected. Chemical maker DuPont said this year's profits will be at the low end of its expectations because of uncertainty about the economic outlook.

The last recession ended in June 2009, but the U.S. economy remains unusually sluggish this far into the recovery. It grew at an annual rate of just 1.5 percent from April through June. Unemployment remains above 8 percent.

"The economy is bordering on stall speed," said Kurt Reiman, a strategist at UBS.

To be sure, some companies are reporting profit growth. Caterpillar's quarterly profit jumped 67 percent, and the maker of big construction equipment boosted its outlook for the year. Boeing reported a better-than-expected 3 percent increase in profits as it delivers more planes.

But outlooks overall are very cautious. In a survey by data provider FactSet, 47 out of 60 companies lowered the earnings guidance they gave investors for the third quarter. And investors often trade more on outlooks than on the last quarter's results.

Shares of online game-maker Zynga plummeted nearly 40 percent on Thursday after it slashed its profit guidance for the year to between 4 cents and 9 cents per share, from 23 cents to 29 cents previously. UPS lost 5 percent of its value the day after cutting its full-year earnings forecast by 25 cents per share, to a range of $4.50 to $4.70. Its stock regained some of that loss later in the week.

Starbucks shares plummeted 9.4 percent on Friday after it cut its outlook for the current quarter and said it is still struggling in Europe.

Criminals abuse New Zealand's liberal company laws

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—When American Jeffery Lowrance this month pleaded guilty in federal court to wire fraud and money laundering after running a $25 million Ponzi scheme, he was just the latest in a long list of criminals to take advantage of liberal company laws in New Zealand.

Like other criminals before him, he found that for about $130 and a small amount of online paperwork, he could set up a shell company in New Zealand without stepping foot in the country or having any financial presence. He registered First Capital Savings & Loan to an Auckland address but ran his scheme from Panama.

The World Bank ranks New Zealand as the easiest place in the world to set up a business, a point of pride for the island nation, which seeks to encourage trade and investment. But the system is open to abuse.

In an alarming case two years ago, a New Zealand shell company, SP Trading, leased an airplane that was seized in Thailand while carrying 35 tons of rocket-propelled grenades, surface-to-air missiles and other weaponry. The plane had picked up the cargo in North Korea and was headed for Iran. The crew, four Kazahks and a Belarusian, were incarcerated and charged with possessing weapons.

Soon after that, New Zealand's Companies Office set up risk-profiling teams to scour the company register for suspect companies. Since 2010, they've found 2,600 illegitimate companies, and have been de-listing companies that don't comply with various rules at the rate of more than 1,000 per month. Yet with more than 560,000 companies now registered in New Zealand—one for every eight citizens—the database is large and growing.

And in the case of SP Trading, it wasn't until two months ago that the Companies Office finally removed it from its register of legitimate businesses.

The European Union became concerned enough that last year it struck New Zealand from its so-called "white list" of countries that require only minimal customer due diligence for transactions involving financial and credit institutions. Concerned that New Zealand could be prone to money laundering and terrorist financing, the EU reaffirmed this year that New Zealand wouldn't be on the list, which includes Australia, Canada and the U.S.

That's been an embarrassment for the developed nation which is regularly rated among the world's least corrupt.

Last week, New Zealand's Commerce Minister Craig Foss introduced a new bill which he says will tighten the rules by requiring each listed company to have a New Zealand-based agent who will bear some legal responsibility. But even if passed by the parliament, the new law would not come into effect until mid-2013 and would not go far enough to satisfy some critics.

"It's about balance," Foss said in an interview. "We are renowned for our ability to get companies up and running in New Zealand. We need to balance that ease with our obligations to make sure we are doing what we can to stop abuse."

He said the new rules would dovetail with anti-money laundering legislation that is being spearheaded by Justice Minister Judith Collins.

Yet some say New Zealand has yet to get serious about stopping abuse. Financial blog naked capitalism has repeatedly accused New Zealand of playing the equivalent of the arcade game "Whac-a-Mole" by knocking down illegitimate operators as they pop up but not dealing with the systemic problems that give rise to the abuse.

"There are significant gaps in New Zealand legislation, especially concerning the registration and supervision of companies," said Michalis Rokas, the Chargé d'Affaires for the EU delegation in New Zealand.

Chinese city kills project after pollution protest

QIDONG, China (AP)—Authorities in eastern China dropped plans for a waste water discharge project Saturday after thousands of protesters angry about pollution took to the streets. It was the latest of many such confrontations in a country where three decades of rapid economic expansion have come at an environmental price.

Some of the protesters in Qidong in Jiangsu province clashed with police and turned a patrol car on its side. After the protest Saturday, the Qidong government announced on its website that plans to build the water discharge project had been scrapped.

The official Xinhua News Agency said thousands of residents took to the streets but dispersed after the government announcement. Later Saturday hundreds of police, some in riot gear, arrived in the coastal town just north of Shanghai and took up positions outside the government offices.

The water discharge project was to be part of a paper-making factory proposed by the Japanese company Oji Paper Group in upstream Nantong city. The government did not say if the plans for the factory have also been permanently dropped.

Oji said in a statement Friday that the waste water would only be discharged after treatment that meets national standards.

"Environmental protection is a high priority for our company," the statement said.

Chinese have become more outspoken about environmentally risky projects in their backyards, with pollution a leading cause of unrest. Earlier this month, Shifang city in the southwestern province of Sichuan scrapped plans for a copper plant after thousands of protesters, including high school students, clashed with riot police.

The grass-roots protests reflect the balancing act Chinese leaders are performing between maintaining public stability and pushing economic growth, and between local officials who want to attract industry and a public who do not want it in their neighborhoods.

Such protests are especially sensitive ahead of a once-a-decade change in top leaders planned for later this year.

Nation

In Obama era, have race relations improved?

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ask Americans how race relations have changed under their first black president and they are ready with answers.

Ashley Ray, a white woman, hears more people debating racial issues. "I know a lot of people who really thought we were OK as a nation, a culture, and now they understand that we're not," she says.

Karl Douglass, a black man, sees stereotypes easing. "White people deal with me and my family differently," he says.

Jose Lozano, who is Hispanic by way of Puerto Rico, believes prejudice is emerging from the shadows. "Now the racism is coming out," he says.

In the afterglow of Barack Obama's historic victory, most people in the United States believed that race relations would improve. Nearly four years later, has that dream come true? Americans have no shortage of thoughtful opinions, and no consensus.

As the nation moves toward the multiracial future heralded by this son of an African father and white mother, the events of Obama's first term, and what people make of them, help trace the racial arc of his presidency.

Shortly before the 2008 election, 56 percent of Americans surveyed by the Gallup organization said that race relations would improve if Obama were elected. One day after his victory, 70 percent said race relations would improve and only 10 percent predicted they would get worse.

Just weeks after taking office, Obama said, "There was justifiable pride on the part of the country that we had taken a step to move us beyond some of the searing legacies of racial discrimination."

Then he joked, "But that lasted about a day."

Or, rather, three months.

By July 2009, the black Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates was arrested for yelling at a white police officer who questioned whether Gates had broken into his own home. Asked to comment, Obama said he didn't know all the facts, but Gates was a personal friend and the officer had acted "stupidly."

The uproar was immediate. Obama acknowledged afterward, "I could've calibrated those words differently."

Ed Cattaneo, a retired computer training manager from Cape May, N.J., points to that episode as evidence of how Obama has hurt race relations.

AP

In this July 20, 2012 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks in Ft. Myers, Fla. Most of America doesn't relate to Mitt Romney's religion but that may not matter in his race against President Barack Obama.

"He's made them terrible," says Cattaneo, who is white. He also sees Obama as siding against white people through actions such as his Justice Department's decision to drop voter intimidation charges against New Black Panthers and in a program to turn out the black vote called "African-Americans for Obama."

Larry Sharkey, also white, draws different conclusions from the past four years.

"Attitudes are much better," Sharkey says as he slices raw meat in a Philadelphia butcher shop. He remembers welcoming a black family that moved next door to him 20 years ago in Claymont, Del. A white neighbor advised him not to associate with the new arrivals, warning, "Your property values are going to go down."

That kind of thing would never happen today, Sharkey says.

As Obama dealt with fallout from the Gates affair during the summer of 2009, the tea party coalesced out of opposition to Obama's stimulus and health care proposals. The vast majority of tea partyers were white. A small number of them displayed racist signs or were connected to white supremacist groups, prompting the question: Are Obama's opponents motivated by dislike of the president's policies, his race - or both?

Colo. theater lacked security, unlike some peers

AP

Mike Campbell, from Aurora, shows his ticket from Century 16 theater Saturday, July 28, 2012, in Aurora, Colo.

DENVER (AP)—The Colorado movie theater complex that was the scene of a gunman's massacre this month didn't have any uniformed security guards on duty the night of the shooting, even though other theaters operated by the same company did provide such protection for the busy premiere of the Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises."

It's impossible to know whether guards—often off-duty police officers—at the Aurora Century 16 would have spotted the suspected gunman, James Holmes, and thwarted the attack that left 12 moviegoers dead and dozens wounded on July 20.

Officers hired as guards are generally armed and usually spend their time roaming the complex, checking bags or dealing with minor disputes.

Cinemark provided off-duty police guards at the Aurora theater on busy Friday and Saturday nights. As for other nights of the week, theater operators decide on a case-by-case basis whether to hire security, depending on the likelihood of trouble. The attack came early Friday, shortly after the midnight screening of the Batman film began.

Larry Lowak, whose son Brent was among the wounded, said security personnel on the scene possibly could have stopped the gunman, and he was dismayed to learn that guards weren't on hand.

"If you bring in security on Friday or Saturday, you sure as hell want to bring it in for this particular function," Lowak said.

Plano, Texas-based Cinemark, which operates the Aurora theater, declined to explain why guards weren't provided in Aurora that night and declined to discuss safety policies in general.

Through interviews with police officers and officials outside the theater company, The Associated Press was able to identify places around the country that did use armed security workers for the July 19-20 Batman showings—including places like Beaumont, Texas; Lake Charles, La., and Tupelo, Miss.

Some other locations, including a Cinema Century 16 theater in the western Denver suburb of Lakewood, did not have security.

Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates has said that the Cinemark in Aurora normally uses off-duty officers to provide security on weekend nights but did not have any working for the July 19 showings that went into the next morning. The theater does not have an unusually high record of complaints or crimes, police Sgt. Cassidee Carlson said.

US audit: $200M wasted on Iraqi police training

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. auditors have concluded that more than $200 million was wasted on a program to train Iraqi police that Baghdad says is neither needed nor wanted.

The Police Development Program—which was drawn up to be the single largest State Department program in the world—was envisioned as a five-year, multibillion-dollar push to train security forces after the U.S. military left last December. But Iraqi political leaders, anxious to keep their distance from the Americans, were unenthusiastic.

A report by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, to be released Monday, found that the American Embassy in Baghdad never got a written commitment from Iraq to participate. Now, facing what the report called Baghdad's "disinterest" in the project, the embassy is gutting what was supposed to be the centerpiece of ongoing U.S. training efforts in Iraq.

According to the report, the embassy plans to turn over the $108 million Baghdad Police College Annex to Iraqis by the end of the year and will stop training at a $98 million site at the U.S. consulate in the southern city of Basra. Additionally, the number of advisers has been cut by nearly 90 percent—from 350 to 36.

"A major lesson learned from Iraq is that host country buy-in to proposed programs is essential to the long-term success of relief and reconstruction activities. The PDP experience powerfully underscores that point," auditors wrote in a 41-page summary of their inspection. An advance copy was provided to The Associated Press.

Auditors noted that it "has clearly been difficult" for American diplomats to secure a solid commitment from Iraq's government to participate in the training program. Still, the report concluded, "the decision to embark on a major program absent Iraqi buy-in has been costly" and resulted in "a de facto waste."

The findings call into question funding needs at the largest U.S. embassy in the world, as the Obama administration prepares its new spending plan for the 2013 fiscal year that begins Oct 1. While auditors said it's unknown how much the embassy in Baghdad is requesting, additional money for the police program "may not be needed."

ACROSS THE NATION

Student charged with threats against Kent State

CLEVELAND (AP)—Police have arrested and charged a 19-year-old Kent State University student who posted a message on Twitter saying he planned to "shoot up" the campus. WEWS-TV reports that William Koberna was arrested at his parents' home in Brunswick Sunday afternoon. He's been charged with inducing panic, a felony, and aggravated menacing. A university spokesman said Sunday night the tweet was posted July 25.

Police: 3 shot in Miami after man visits family

MIAMI (AP)—Police in Miami were searching Sunday for a man accused of shooting at least three people in an apparent domestic dispute and who has said he will not surrender. The victims' injuries were not believed to be life-threatening. Erin Cash, 23, was wanted on charges of attempted murder. Miami-Dade Police Det. William Moreno said the incident started when officers responded to a call at 8 a.m. from a woman who claimed she had been beaten by Cash, her child's father. Cash then fled the scene with the couple's 3-year-old son and threatened to harm the mother and child, Moreno said. Cash later dropped off the boy at his mother's house unharmed.

Panda cub born at San Diego Zoo

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A 20-year-old giant panda has given birth at the San Diego Zoo, and it's a record. Officials say it's the sixth cub born at the zoo to Bai Yun, the most at a breeding facility outside of China. Zookeepers and researchers watched the birth Sunday afternoon via a closed circuit camera mounted inside the birthing den. In a blog post, zoo officials say Bai Yun immediately scooped the cub into her arms and comforted the newborn. Because of Bai Yun's advanced age the pregnancy was considered high risk, but zookeepers say mother and baby are doing fine.

Asia

PH: Suspected Abu Sayyaf member arrested

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police commandos have captured a militant from the violent Abu Sayyaf group who is linked to past kidnappings and helped Southeast Asian terrorists travel in and out of the southern Philippines, officials said Sunday.

Regional police chief Senior Superintendent Edgar Danao said a special police action force and agents of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime arrested Ahmadsali Badron on Saturday in Lamion village in Tawi Tawi, the country's southernmost province. Tawi Tawi is near Sulu province, where the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf has jungle strongholds.

Badron, who also uses the names Asmad and Hamad Ustadz Idris, has been implicated in the 2000 kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf gunmen of 21 people, mostly European tourists, from Malaysia's Sipadan diving resort, Danao said.

Badron is also suspected of helping arrange the entry and exit from the southern Philippines of Asian operatives belonging to the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah militant network. Among the top terror suspects who managed to travel in the country's south with Badron's help was Dulmatin, an Indonesian militant accused of helping plot the 2002 nightclub bombings that killed 202 people in Bali, Indonesia, Danao said.

AP

In this photo released by Western Mindanao Command, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Jesse Dellosa talks to a wounded army ranger in a military hospital Friday, July 27, 2012 in Zamboanga City, southern Philippines. Day-long clashes between Al Qaida-linked Muslim militants and Philippine troops on a southern island have killed 10 army soldiers and nine rebels, the military said Friday.

Dulmatin, a suspected bombmaker who was on a U.S. list of most-wanted terrorists, hid for years with the Abu Sayyaf in the southern Mindanao region and returned to Indonesia, where he was gunned down by police in March 2010.

Badron allegedly received funds from a Palestinian militant that were used to spread Islamic extremism. A Muslim preacher from Sulu, Badron is also believed to have kept ransom money raised by the Abu Sayyaf. He has been identified by former hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf, according to a police report.

The Abu Sayyaf is blamed for the country's worst bomb attacks, kidnapping sprees and for beheading some of its hostages during the last two decades.

The Abu Sayyaf was founded in 1991 on southern Basilan island with suspected funds and training from Asian and Middle Eastern radical groups, including al-Qaida. It came to U.S. attention in 2001 when it kidnapped three Americans, two of whom were later killed, and dozens of Filipinos.

The kidnappings prompted Washington to deploy hundreds of troops in the country's south in 2002 to train Philippine forces and share intelligence, helping the military capture or kill most of the Abu Sayyaf's top commanders. Now without a central leader, the group still has close to 400 armed fighters and is still regarded as a key threat.

Japan anti-nuke candidate loses governor election

TOKYO (AP)—A candidate who ran on a rare anti-nuclear platform lost a weekend election for state governor, even as thousands of people formed "a human chain" around Japan's parliament complex to demand the government abandon nuclear power.

The protest was the latest in a series of peaceful demonstrations on a scale not seen in the nation for decades since the Fukushima crisis gave rise to fears of another nuclear disaster.

In the closely watched election Sunday for governor of southwestern Yamaguchi prefecture, anti-nuclear candidate Tetsunari Iida trailed former bureaucrat Shigetaro Yamamoto with 185,654 votes to 252,461 votes, the prefecture said Monday. Two other independent candidates also ran. Voter turnout at 45 percent was high.

The election highlights the gap between deep anti-nuclear sentiments, evident in Sunday's and other recent protests in Tokyo, and the reaction in distant rural areas, where the plants are located, that tends to be more accepting of their presence.

Sunday's protesters, crowding Japan's Capitol Hill, said they were angry that the government had restarted two reactors earlier this month despite safety worries after the multiple meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in March last year. The reactors were the first to return to operation since May, when the last of Japan's 50 working reactors went offline for routine checks.

Banging on drums and waving balloons and banners, protesters marched from a Tokyo park and lined up along the streets around the parliament building chanting, "Saikado hantai," or "No to restarts," and later lit candles.

"All these people have gotten together and are raising their voices," said Shoji Kitano, 64, a retired math teacher who was wearing a sign that read, "No to Nukes."

Kitano said he had not seen such massive demonstrations since the 1960s. He stressed that ordinary Japanese usually don't demonstrate, but were outraged over the restarting of nuclear power.

Similar demonstrations have been held outside the prime minister's residence every Friday evening. The crowds have not dwindled, as people get the word out through Twitter and other online networking. A July 16 holiday rally at a Tokyo park, featuring a rock star and a Nobel laureate, drew nearly 200,000 people.

The crowd appeared to be smaller Sunday. Kyodo News service estimated it at about 10,000 people. Participants said they came from across Japan, underlining the widespread appeal of the protests.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda defended his decision to restart the two reactors at Ohi nuclear plant in central Japan as necessary to maintain people's living standards. Other reactors are also expected to go back online, one by one.

Reports from government and legislative investigations of the Fukushima disaster have done little to allay people's fears. A recent probe blamed a "Japanese mindset" which it said had allowed collusion between the plant's operator and regulators.

Adding to protesters' frustrations is the support nuclear power has received from regional governments where the plants are located. They said they planned to vote anti-nuclear candidates into office to effect change.

Typically, relatively poor rural and fishing areas, far from Tokyo, have been chosen for construction of nuclear plants, with residents won over with jobs and subsidies. There is a plan to build a nuclear plant in Yamaguchi prefecture, but doubts are growing over whether that can be carried out.

At the Tokyo protest, hospital worker Mika Ohta vowed to vote for anti-nuclear candidates in the next election.

"There is nothing good about nuclear power. It is expensive, gets workers radiated and creates waste," she said. "I'm opposed to this government in every way."

Major power outage hits northern Indian cities

NEW DELHI (AP)—A massive power outage plunged northern India into darkness and stranded thousands of travelers on trains Monday after a supply grid tripped because of overloading, officials said.

Trains across eight northern Indian states and metro services in New Delhi were affected by the power outage that struck at about 2:30 a.m. local time.

Hospitals and emergency services were running on diesel generators.

People, woken from sleep, came out of their homes in New Delhi's sweltering heat as the entire city turned dark.

It could take up to 12 hours to fully restore the electricity supply in the eight northern states, including New Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the chairman of the state-run Uttar Pradesh state Power Corporation Avinash Awasthi said.

The power grid collapsed because some states apparently drew more power than they were authorized to do to meet the rising demand during the summer, Awasthi said, adding that Monday's outage was the worst to hit the country in 11 years.

Blackouts are a frequent occurrence in many Indian cities because of shortage of power supply and an antiquated electricity grid.

Two weeks ago, angry crowds blocked traffic and clashed with police after power blackouts in the Delhi suburb of Gurgaon that houses many high-rise apartment blocks and offices. With no power in some neighborhoods for more than 24 hours, people erected blockades that paralyzed traffic for several hours.

Transmission and distribution losses in some states are as much as 50 percent because of theft and connivance of employees in the power distribution sector.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Train fire kills 47 in southern India

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—A fire engulfed a passenger car on a moving train in southern India on Monday, killing at least 47 people, officials said. Most of the passengers were asleep when the fire broke out at about 4 a.m. on the overnight train from New Delhi to the southeastern city of Chennai, said local official B. Sridhar A train station worker noticed the burning coach on the train as it passed through the town of Nellore, nearly 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh state, Sridhar said. Once the alarm was raised, the train was stopped and the passenger car detached from the rest of the train to prevent the blaze from spreading. Passengers were evacuated once the train was halted.

1 dead, 4 missing in Philippine storm

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say a tropical storm that roughed up seas and dumped torrents of monsoon rains has left one person dead and caused barges to smash into dozens of shanties along Manila Bay. Benito Ramos of the Office of Civil Defense says a man drowned in a swollen river in central Antique province Sunday. Two of three wayward barges from a nearby pier rammed into a row of wooden shanties on stilts in Manila's Tondo slum district early Monday. They destroyed the shanties but caused no injuries. Coast guard officer Noli Casiano says residents fled from the strong wind and waves before the two empty barges hit their shanties. Ramos says four fishermen were reported missing in Occidental Mindoro province, south of Manila.

World

In Israel, Romney declares Jerusalem to be capital

JERUSALEM (AP)—Standing on Israeli soil, U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney on Sunday declared Jerusalem to be the capital of the Jewish state and said the United States has "a solemn duty and a moral imperative" to block Iran from achieving nuclear weapons capability.

"Make no mistake, the ayatollahs in Iran are testing our moral defenses. They want to know who will object and who will look the other way," he said. "We will not look away nor will our country ever look away from our passion and commitment to Israel."

The presidential election hovered over the speech. The Old City formed a made-for-television backdrop behind Romney, while some of his campaign donors listened in the audience.

Romney's declaration that Jerusalem is Israel's capital was matter-of-fact and in keeping with claims made by Israeli governments for decades, even though the United States, like other nations, maintains its embassy in Tel Aviv.

He did not say if he would order the embassy moved if he wins the White House, but strongly suggested so in a CNN interview.

"My understanding is the policy of our nation has been a desire to move our embassy ultimately to the capital (Jerusalem)," he said, adding, "I would only want to do so and to select the timing in accordance with the government of Israel."

His remarks on the subject during his speech drew a standing ovation from his audience, which included Sheldon Adelson, the American businessman who has said he will donate millions to help elect Romney to the White House.

Romney's embrace of Israel was on display throughout the day when he met with Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and other leaders. He also visited the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, where he was mobbed by worshippers. In addition, Romney met with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

In his remarks, Romney steered clear of overt criticism of President Barack Obama, even though he said the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran "has only become worse" in the past five years.

In an unspoken rebuttal to Obama and other critics, Romney said, "It is sometimes said that those who are the most committed to stopping the Iranian regime from security nuclear weapons are reckless and provocative and inviting war.

"The opposite is true. We are the true peacemakers," he said.

The former Massachusetts governor also stepped back from a comment a senior aide made a short while before the speech.

"We recognize Israel's right to defend itself," he told the audience. Earlier, the aide, Dan Senor, previewed the speech for reporters, saying that "if Israel has to take action on its own, in order to stop Iran from developing the capability, the governor would respect that decision."

AP

Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney delivers a speech in Jerusalem, Sunday, July 29, 2012.

Syria's rebels hold Aleppo neighborhoods

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian tanks and artillery pounded rebel-held neighborhoods in the commercial hub of Aleppo on Sunday in a bid to retake control as President Bashar Assad's regime accused regional powerhouses Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey of trying to destroy the country.

Activists say opposition fighters control large swathes of territory across Syria's largest city. The government has been struggling for a week to beat back their assault and stem the tide of recent rebel advances in the civil war.

The head of the main opposition group, the Syrian National Council, called for international help in arming the rebels to face the regime's heavy weaponry, particularly tanks.

"If the international community cannot act, they should support the opposition with anti-tanks missiles and anti-aircraft rockets," Abdel Basset Sida told the Gulf News during a stopover in Abu Dhabi. "We seek international supporters to arm our uprising against the regime."

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have expressed willingness to help fund the rebels and they are believed to be funneling money through Turkey to the opposition, which is using it to purchase arms and equipment.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem railed against interference by the region's Sunni powers in a rare public criticism of his Middle East neighbors. He accused them of supporting the rebels at the behest of Israel.

"Israel is the mastermind of all in this crisis," he said during a joint news conference in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Salehi. "They (Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey) are fighting in the same front."

Syria's Sunni majority forms the backbone of the uprising while the regime is dominated by Assad's minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Iran is Syria's only remaining ally in the Middle East, standing by Damascus throughout the 17-month uprising.

Amid fears of a massacre or a bloody final battle in Aleppo, civilians have been fleeing the city in ever greater numbers.

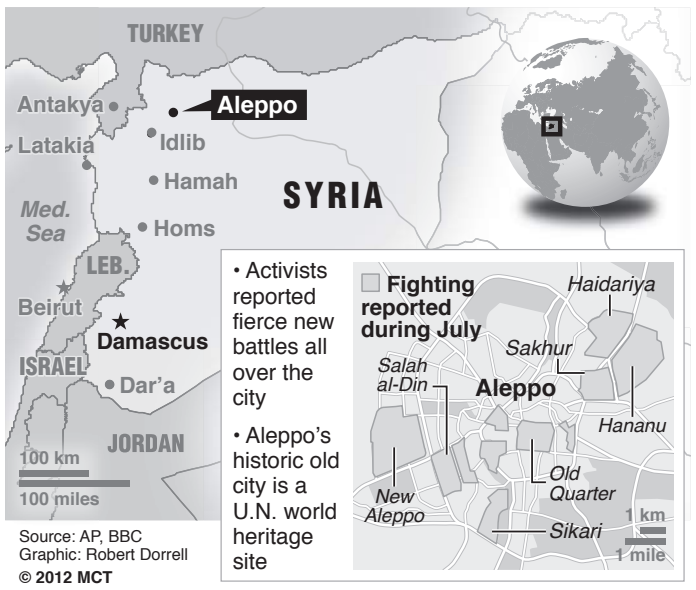
"Life in Aleppo has become unbearable. I'm in my car and I'm leaving right now," said a Syrian writer as he got ready to drive away. "There's shelling night and day, every day," he said over the telephone on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

He painted a dire picture of daily life in the embattled city, torn between the government forces and those of the rebels.

"Bread, gasoline and gas are being sold on the black market at very high prices," he said. "Many things are in shortage."

Battling in Aleppo

Rebel forces have battled regime troops who used tanks and fixed-wing aircraft to attack their positions in the Aleppo area. The regime is rushing reinforcements to the city, Syria's largest.



Source: AP, BBC
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2012 MCT

Report: US presents Israel with Iran strike plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli newspaper reported Sunday that the Obama administration's top security official has briefed Israel on U.S. plans for a possible attack on Iran, seeking to reassure it that Washington is prepared to act militarily should diplomacy and sanctions fail to pressure Tehran to abandon its nuclear enrichment program.

A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential talks, said the article in the Haaretz daily was incorrect.

Haaretz said National Security Adviser Tom Donilon laid out the plans before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a dinner at a visit to Israel earlier this month. It cited an unidentified senior American official as the source of its report, which came out as presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney was telling Israel he would back an Israeli military strike against Iran.

The American official also said Donilon shared information on U.S. weapons that could be used for such an attack, and on the U.S. military's ability to reach Iranian nuclear facilities buried deep underground, the newspaper said. It cited another U.S. official involved in the talks with Israel as concluding that "the time for a military operation against Iran has not yet come."

The Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a confidential meeting, said, "Nothing in the article is correct. Donilon did not meet the prime minister for dinner, he did not meet him one-on-one, nor did he present operational plans to attack Iran." He had no information when asked if Donilon had discussed any kind of attack plans with any Israeli official. Haaretz said another Israeli official attended for part of the meeting.

The U.S. Embassy had no immediate comment. Haaretz cited Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council, as declining to comment on the confidential discussion between Netanyahu and Donilon. The White House also declined comment.

Both Israel and the U.S. think Iran's ultimate aim is to develop weapons technology, and not just produce energy and medical isotopes as Tehran claims. U.S. officials are concerned that Israel might attack Iranian nuclear facilities prematurely, and have been trying to convince Israeli leaders they can depend on Washington to keep Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly said they would not contract out their country's security to another nation.

In Jerusalem on Sunday, a top Romney foreign policy adviser told reporters, "If Israel has to take action on its own, in order to stop Iran from developing the capability (to build a nuclear weapon), the governor would respect that decision." Romney also thinks the option of a U.S. attack should also be on the table.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel troops shoot dead Palestinian at checkpoint

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli border police have shot dead a Palestinian man and wounded two others at the entrance to Jerusalem. Border police spokesman Shai Hakimi says 40-year-old Akram Badr was traveling in a car that burst through a checkpoint at high speed early Monday and tried to run over officers who ordered him to stop. Palestinian police said the car had entered a wrong lane and was backing up to enter the right one when Israeli border police mistakenly thought it was trying to hit them and opened fire.

Major Mexican newspaper attacked 3rd time in month

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—The offices of a major Mexican newspaper came under attack Sunday for the third time this month. Several masked, armed men broke into a branch office of the El Norte newspaper near the northern city of Monterrey, poured out gasoline and ignited it. The newspaper's website said none of the 15 people working in the Sierra Madre office were injured. Firefighters in the municipality of San Pedro Garza Garcia quickly extinguished the blaze.

Islamists: Couple in northern Mali stoned to death

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—A spokesman for the radical Islamic group controlling northern Mali says a couple who had an adulterous relationship was stoned to death this weekend in the town of Aguelhok. Sanda Abou Mohamed, a spokesman for the group Ansar Dine, told The Associated Press by telephone on Sunday that the couple was executed according to Shariah law. A resident of the northern city of Kidal, who had spoken to witnesses in nearby Aguelhok, said the man and woman were buried up to their necks, then pelted with stones until they died earlier Sunday. The resident requested anonymity because he feared for his safety.

Focus

Breakaway Alawite state may be Assad's

LAST RESORT

BEIRUT (AP)—In the recent sectarian violence in Syria, some observers see a grim pattern: Alawite fighters from President Bashar Assad's minority sect, they say, are trying to carve out a breakaway enclave for themselves by driving out local Sunnis, killing entire families and threatening anybody who stays behind.

The Alawite sect that makes up the backbone of Assad's regime has historically been centered in towns and villages of Syria's mountainous Mediterranean coast. If the regime falls, that heartland could become a refuge for the community—and even for Assad himself—from which to fight for survival against a Sunni majority that has long resented their domination.

That would mean a bloody Balkanization of Syria's 17-month-old conflict, an ominous scenario for a country that sits along the Middle East's most turbulent fault lines. Any attempt to create a breakaway state could trigger a wave of sectarian killings and have dangerous repercussions in a region where many religious, ethnic and tribal communities have separatist aspirations.

Already, there has been a degree of demographic shift: Sunnis and Alawites both have for months been fleeing the worst hit areas of the country for safety, mainly with their communities. The past week, as Assad's firm grip on the key cities of Damascus and Aleppo—two longtime bastions of support—appeared to be wobbling, there were reports of Alawites streaming from hotspots into the area along the Mediterranean coast in the north of the country.

But activists and opposition groups believe Assad and members of his power base are going further and are preparing an Alawite stronghold. Recent killings in overwhelmingly Sunni villages close to Alawite communities, they say, are meant to lay the groundwork.

"The idea for Assad to hold all of Syria as we know it, has become very difficult now," said Elias Hanna, a Beirut-based strategic analyst. "Falling back on an Alawite state is his plan B."

An offshoot of Shiite Islam, the Alawite sect represents little more than 10 percent of the population in Syria. Prior to their ascent in the mid-20th century, the Alawites were impoverished and marginalized, largely confined to the mountains of the province of Latakia on the Mediterranean coast. Most of those who left the area did so only to work at menial jobs such as housekeepers and gardeners for well-off Sunni patrons.

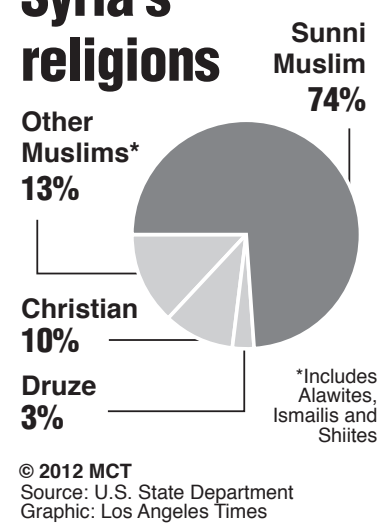
Under French mandate, the Alawites were granted an autonomous territory stretching in a band along the coast from the Lebanese border to the Turkish border. It lasted a few years until 1937, when their state was incorporated into modern-day Syria.

After the 1963 coup that brought the Baath Party to power, Alawites began consolidating their presence in the government and armed forces. When Hafez Assad took power in a 1970 coup, he stacked key military posts with Alawites, ensuring army loyalty.

His son Bashar, who succeeded him in 2000, continued the policy. A U.N. report estimated last year that Alawites make up the majority of the officer corps of the armed forces, the Republican Guard and the feared 4th Division, commanded by Assad's brother Maher.

The Assad dynasty has long tried to push a secular identity in Syria, and Bashar's wife, Asma, is a Sunni from Homs. But he has relied heavily on Alawites in the military and security forces to try to crush the uprising that began against his rule in March 2011. Pro-regime vigilante groups, known as Shabiha and largely made up of Alawites, have carried out killings of Sunnis and opposition activists.

This disproportionate power has bred resentment among Sunnis, who make up most of Syria's 22 million people and are the base of the opposition. Some Alawites have joined the revolt against Assad. But like other Syrian minorities, they have stood largely by him for fear of what might befall them in case a hardline Sunni regime takes over.



Observers say thousands of Alawites have left their homes in war-shattered cities such as Homs, for the relative safety of the overwhelmingly Alawite provinces of Tartous and Latakia. The beach resorts in the port city of Tartous in particular, about an hour and a half drive west of Homs, have become a refuge for Alawites seeking to escape the violence—as well as for some Sunnis, a sign the sectarian split is not completely clear-cut.

"I feel safer here," said a 27-year-old Alawite banker who left Homs to settle for now in Tartous.

"I'm not a fan of Bashar, but I'm really worried about what will happen if he goes," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear for his safety.

He left his home during the height of a government siege of opposition neighborhoods of Homs earlier this year. The city has also been the scene of tit-for-tat killings between Sunnis and Alawites.

"In Homs, those who call themselves the Free Syrian Army are terrorizing people," the banker said, referring to rebels. "My friend was kidnapped in May and to this day we don't know anything about him."

The U.S. security think tank, Stratfor, said "signs are now emerging that the regime's minority Alawite constituency has lost faith in the sustainability of the Assads" and are making preparations just in case.

The Texas-based intelligence analysis firm said that amid the heavy fighting in Damascus and Aleppo the past week, hundreds of Alawites fled to the Syrian coast, going through neighboring Lebanon to avoid the direct road to the coast, which cuts through Homs.

Mass killings in the villages of Houla in May and Qubeir in June fueled speculation that the regime is preparing to carve out an Alawite enclave in its heartland. The two Sunni villages, each surrounded by Alawite towns, lie near main routes into the sect's coastal strip.

Dozens were killed in to attacks in the two villages, which followed a similarly gruesome pattern of fierce government shelling and in some cases Shabiha forces going house to house and killing civilians.

Details of what exactly unfolded in Houla and Qubeir are unclear to this day. The areas were blocked to U.N. observers for days, and journalists are faced severe restrictions in Syria. The government blames gunmen driven by a foreign agenda of the killings, but there have been reports by the U.N. and other witnesses confirming that at least some of killings were carried out by pro-regime Alawite gunmen.

Hanna said such violence aimed to force out Sunnis and create a buffer. "They are securing the line of logistics to regime forces to protect coastal areas in the next phase."

Mohammad Saleh, a centrist Alawite who is with the opposition in Homs, said any attempt to physically carve out enclaves would be difficult.

"Yes, there are people working on dividing Syria. Yes, there may be factions within the regime dreaming of an Alawite state, but the majority in Syria from all sects are dead against it," he said in a telephone interview.

"The existing demographic overlap makes it extremely difficult to implement," he added.

Analysts say Assad may be thinking of retreating to the coastal mountains of Latakia, much like Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi retreated to his hometown of Sirte for his final stand before he was killed in October.

But if Sunni rebels take Damascus, resistance in an Alawite enclave could not hold out, wrote University of Oklahoma professor Joshua Landis, who runs a popular blog on Syria.

"Assad has done nothing to lay the groundwork for an Alawite state," he said. "There is no national infrastructure in the coastal region to sustain a state: no international airport, no electric power plans, no industry of importance, and nothing on which to build a national economy."

"Whoever owns Damascus and the central state will own the rest of Syria in short order."

In this July 10, 2011 file photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA and according to them, thousands of supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad, carry a gigantic 17,500 yards (16,000 meters) Syrian flag during a pro-Assad demonstration, in the Mediterranean city of Latakia, northwest of Damascus, Syria. AP

Overdrive

Honda Pilot aims to please the family crowd

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

If you're in the market for a family hauler perfect for a weekend getaway or an extended vacation, the 2012 Honda Pilot ranks as a top choice.

General Motors has some larger crossovers that are a bit roomier—the Chevrolet Traverse, Buick Enclave and GMC Acadia—but among the midsize class, the Pilot shines.

It's also a perfect alternative for those who don't particularly want to drive a minivan—such as Honda's other great family hauler, the Odyssey—but need the eight-passenger capacity.

This is one of the most family-friendly vehicles ever built, and it's just as versatile as a minivan for the routine daily duties of hauling kids, dogs, soccer equipment and groceries.

For 2012, there are three trim levels, LX, EX and EX-L, and 12 total variations, depending on what extras are added, such as four-wheel drive, navigation and rear-seat entertainment. The EX-L models come with leather interiors—that's what the "L" stands for. Four-wheel drive is optional on all levels.

Prices range from $28,620 for the base LX two-wheel drive to $40,970 for the top-of-the-line EX-L four-wheel drive with navigation and rear entertainment.

We tested the fully-equipped EX-L four-wheel drive with navigation and rear entertainment, priced at $40,970.

The Pilot is nearly as elegant and well-equipped as its premium Acura counterpart, the MDX, which is built on the same chassis.

Under the hood is a 3.5-liter V-6 engine, rated at 250 horsepower and 253 foot-pounds of torque, connected to a five-speed automatic transmission. It's a smooth, powerful drive-train that moves the vehicle effortlessly.

The 2012 Honda Pilot, on the short side in its class, is what Honda calls "garage friendly." HONDA/MCT

We had four people on board, with their luggage, for a long road trip that included some mountain driving, and the Pilot handled the hills with ease, as well as routine uphill freeway ramps.

The Pilot is mostly quiet at highway speeds, although some wind noise does come through. It's still easy to conduct a conversation at normal volume levels, though, even at 70 mph.

Although the ride is soft and easy on the body, the Pilot's suspension is strong enough to hold the vehicle steady on curves, and the steering is crisp and responsive. That's one of the pluses of the crossover's car-style unibody chassis compared with the body-on-frame arrangement of the traditional sport utility vehicle, such as the Ford Expedition and Toyota Sequoia.

The Pilot's V-6 engine has variable cylinder management, which shuts off up to three of the cylinders during highway cruising. That helps give the Pilot its EPA highway rating of 25 mpg in the front-wheel-drive model, and 24 with four-wheel drive. City ratings are 18 mpg for the front-drive model, and 17 for the four-wheel drive.

The test vehicle came with Honda's full-time variable torque management four-wheel drive system, which is designed to improve traction mostly in rain or snow, but also gives the car some off-road capability.

There is no transfer case to provide low-range gearing for extreme trail driving, but there is a dash button that locks the system to allow for maximum torque in first and second gears, at speeds up to 18 mph, to simulate low range. That could help the vehicle extricate itself from mud holes or allow it to negotiate steep off-road slopes.

Ground clearance is just eight inches, though, which doesn't allow enough room to clear rocks and other obstacles that most true sport utility vehicles can handle.

There are lots of nooks and crannies in the cabin of the Pilot to keep mobile devices secure and within easy reach. Three 12-volt power outlets are within reach of the driver and front passenger, along with a 110-volt outlet for a game console or a wall charger for a laptop, for example.

As for cupholders and cubbies to keep stuff organized, nobody has this covered like Honda does. Besides two cupholders in the center console between the two front seats, there are trays in front and behind them, as well as three more trays on top of the glove box.

With a full load of passengers, everyone has at least one usable cupholder, and some have more than one.

There are cubbies in the dash for more devices, and in the back, there are map pockets and door pockets and other places to stow stuff to keep it from flying all over the car when brakes are applied or a sharp turn is made.

In the center console there are USB and audio connections for iPods and other MP3 players, allowing them to be played through the in-dash audio system.

This roomy and comfortable vehicle has nearly 153 cubic feet of passenger space, and a cargo area that expand to 87 cubic feet with the middle and rear seats folded. With all the seats in place, there is an 18 cubic-foot space behind the third row, which is larger than that found in most midsize SUVs with a third seat. That doesn't include a hidden 2.8 cubic-foot storage well, which can keep valuables out of sight.

The second and third rows can hold up to three people each, but the third row is best left to children, as is the middle position in the middle row. For easy access to the third row, the second-row seat can be moved forward easily. Four child-seat anchors are provided—three in the second row and one in the third.

The Pilot, which is less than 16 feet long, is easier to park than some of its eight-passenger competitors. Some of those are as much as two feet longer that the Pilot, which Honda calls "garage-friendly."

Among safety features, the Pilot comes with Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering body structure, designed to make it match the bumper heights of most other vehicles on the road.

Other standard safety gear includes electronic stability control; three-row, side-curtain air bags with rollover sensors; driver and front-passenger seat-mounted side air bags; active front head restraints; and antilock brakes with electronic brake distribution and brake assist.

The Pilot has been designated a Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the vehicle received the best possible ratings in front- and side-crash safety tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Among standard amenities on all models are front and rear air conditioning with air filtration, keyless entry, tilt and telescopic steering column, cruise control, power windows/mirrors/door locks, AM/FM/compact-disc audio system with seven speakers (including subwoofer) and the Radio Data System, trip computer, digital compass, automatic headlights, heat-rejecting tinted glass, and integrated tow-hitch receiver.

With the EX, you'll also get tri-zone automatic climate control with humidity control and air filtration, a 10-way power driver's seat with lumbar support, a six-disc in-dash CD changer, security system, XM radio, body-color side mirrors and door handles, alloy wheels, roof rails, fog lights, exterior temperature indicator, and a universal garage opener.

The EX-L adds leather seating surfaces, heated front seats, a four-way power front passenger seat, a one-touch power moon roof, acoustic windshield glass, and an automatic-dimming rearview mirror.

Also included on top-end models are a rearview camera, premium audio, Bluetooth phone connectivity, a multi-information display, corner and backup sensors, exclusive alloy wheels, power tailgate, and outside-mirror integrated turn signals.

NUTS & BOLTS

2012 Honda Pilot

- **THE PACKAGE:** Midsize/large, front- or all-wheel-drive, five-door, eight-passenger, V-6 powered, crossover utility vehicle.
- **HIGHLIGHTS:** This is Honda's family-size crossover, with seating for up to eight. It is roomy and comfortable, has plenty of power, and has an interior perfectly suited for long road trips with the kids.
- **NEGATIVES:** Cargo space is only about that of a large sedan when all three rows of seats are in use.
- **BASE PRICE:** $28,620
- **PRICE AS TESTED:** $40,970
- **ON THE ROAD RATING:** 9.3 of a possible 10
- All prices exclude destination charges.

UNDER THE HOOD

Refrigerant leak can be hard to find

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 1998 Cadillac Deville with Northstar engine at 130,000 miles. Last summer, I noticed the A/C was blowing warm air, so I took it to the dealer. They charged the system and it worked great all last summer. This summer, the same thing happened, but they told me I needed a new compressor or condenser at a cost of $675. But I noticed that at highway speeds of 55 to 60 mph, it blows relatively cool air. But at low speeds and at idle such as at stop signs or red lights, it blows very warm air. If the compressor or condenser is bad, how does it blow cool air at highway speeds?

This has been a great car, with all the regular recommended maintenance. Great gas mileage for a full size car and with front wheel drive and traction engagement, it is great for our Pennsylvania winters. We have had a few 90-degree days that are brutal. I am not a mechanic. What are your thoughts on how to proceed?—Tom Jones

ANSWER: Tom, It sounds like the Deville has a small refrigerant leak that may have gotten worse, or the technician that recently serviced the car is a bit fussier than the previous one regarding what's considered tolerable leakage.

An air conditioning compressor may require replacement due to internal mechanical problems or refrigerant leakage from its shaft seal or housing. Since your A/C works OK at road speed, I'm guessing the compressor is OK mechanically but may have a leaking seal or housing o-ring.

The condenser is a large, flat aluminum heat exchanger that's mounted in front of the radiator. These can develop refrigerant leakage due to mechanical injury or vibration-induced cracking of tubes, fittings or mounting tab attachments.

It's a shame the dealer's service adviser didn't communicate a little more clearly as to exactly which part or parts needed replacement and why. The price you were quoted sounds about right for one of these parts to be renewed, but too low for both. Diagnosing small leaks can be tricky. Any detectable leakage from an injured component justifies immediate repair, but a tiny amount of leakage from the compressor shaft seal or a fitting o-ring may be considered tolerable. If the Deville will run for a year between refrigerant recharging—and the leakage hasn't suddenly worsened—doing so again sounds reasonable.

The reason the Deville cools somewhat at road speed but not at idle is likely due to higher compressor RPM and increased airflow across the condenser. This indicates also that the system has leaked perhaps only about half of its 32 ounces of refrigerant.

I'd check back with the dealer for clarification on why the repairs were recommended. Perhaps they could pull the hard copy of the repair order, which would contain the technician's exact findings, and explain this to you, as opposed to the abbreviated version re-written by someone else on the soft copy given to you. Even though the EPA does not require leakage repair prior to recharging, as some localities might, it's certainly a best practice to reduce leakage on every vehicle as much as is reasonably possible.

It's best to evacuate and recharge an A/C system with the specified quantity of refrigerant, rather than simply top it off with a can or two purchased from the auto parts store. It's impossible to determine how much refrigerant is remaining, and how much to add. Most systems are very fussy about being charged to the precise recommended capacity.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

NYC movie, pin-up collection slated for auction

By ULA ILNYTZKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Movie Star News amassed a staggering amount of film stills, posters and negatives over the past 73 years—nearly 3 million, including 1,500 prints of Bettie Page, known as the queen of pin-ups. But last week, the once-lively store in lower Manhattan was lifeless. The classic movie posters that once covered its narrow 2,000-square-foot space were rolled up or covered in cellophane, its bins and racks empty. Everything was packed up in cardboard boxes that lined the floor.

The legendary Manhattan store credited with creating pin-up art had sold its entire inventory to a Las Vegas collectibles company.

The collection, regarded as one of the largest of its kind, is headed for the auction block. It will be sold in a series of sales slated to begin next year. The bulk of the collection covers the years 1939 to 1979; 11,500 movies and 5,000 actors are represented.

"This is the most important photo archive of Hollywood in existence. There are tens of thousands of negatives that have never been reproduced," said Stuart Scheinman, co-owner of Entertainment Collectibles, which bought the collection. "There are images here that have never been seen by the public."

There are 2,000 original prints and negatives of Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando, 1,000 of Gary Cooper, 400 of Bette Davis, hundreds of movie images of "The Godfather" and "Gone With the Wind."

"This could literally take five to 10 years to go through it all," Scheinman said. He would only say the company purchased the collection for "seven figures." Its true value was anyone's guess, but he believed it easily was worth $150 million.

Movie Star News produced 8-by-10 glossy prints from the negatives, selling each for a few dollars in the store and through the mail. But the Internet has significantly cut down on demand.

"I make references to things when customers come in, and they have no idea what I'm talking about," said Ira Kramer, who took over the business that his mother, Paula, and uncle Irving Klaw, started in 1939. "Today, if you want a picture of a star you can go on the computer and download it. So what do you need me for?"

"The maintenance of the collection has been fastidious ... the way a fine library would maintain material," said Arlan Ettinger, president of Guernsey's and in charge of selling the collection.

As far back as the 1940s, Movie Star News had a mailing list of 100,000 names. World War II soldiers were big customers, buying prints for their lockers, Kramer said.

The entrepreneurial Klaw, who died in 1966, hit on the idea of selling pictures of Hollywood stars while operating a movie bookstore.

AP

In this Wednesday, July 25, 2012 photo, Ira Kramer, nephew of the original Movie Star News founder Irving Klaw, holds a boot that once belonged to pin-up legend Bettie Page, at the New York shop.

Olympic viewing: NBC critics loud on social media

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In the age of social media, NBC now has millions of television critics who make their opinions known about every aspect of Olympics coverage instantly.

They've even set up their own hashtag on Twitter: (hash) nbcfail. The online complaints focused Saturday on NBC's decision to air the marquee swimming event won by American Ryan Lochte on tape delay in prime time, and Friday on the network not streaming the opening ceremony online. Sunday's critics started early: people wondering why the U.S. men's basketball team's opening game aired on a cable network while women's cycling was shown on NBC.

The conversation is so active that NBC's executive producer of the games, Jim Bell, took to Twitter to answer critics and even change the way NBC is doing something in response.

"(hash)nbcfail is filled with a lot of crying and snark and humor, but NBC can actually learn something from it," said Jeff Jarvis, a media critic who writes the Buzzmachine.com blog.

Complaints about tape delayed coverage are an evergreen with Olympics held on foreign soil. But the London Games are the first with Twitter, Facebook and other social media sites in full flower, in a mobile phone era where people carry computers that instantly deliver news in their pockets. It has amplified the impatience of viewers who want to see events on their large-screen TVs instantly and haven't been mollified by NBC's decision to stream the events live online.

James Poniewozik, Time magazine TV critic, tweeted that "NBC tape delay coverage is like the airlines: its interest is in giving you the least satisfactory service you will still come back for."

That drew a quick response from NBC's Bell: "You do know that all sports events are being streamed live right?"

"I do, indeed!" replied Poniewozik. "Have enjoyed it. Apparently a lot of folks still prefer watching it on TV."

NBC says it saves big events for prime-time airing because that is when most viewers are available to watch them and where the network makes the bulk of its advertising revenue. Since prime time on the U.S. East Coast coincides with 1 a.m. London time, there are no events to air live then. NBC representatives noted that there were 39 hours of live events Sunday on NBC and its affiliated networks.

Even as it defends its approach, NBC clearly hears those critics. One of Bell's Facebook posts highlighted coverage of Sunday's cycling race by saying it was all-caps LIVE. The network advertised its live streaming on the prime-time broadcast.

Jonathan Wald, who produces Piers Morgan's CNN talk show and used to work at NBC, tweeted that "the medal for most Olympic whining goes to everyone who complains about what happens every four years. Tape delay."

One of those complainers, in fact, was Morgan: He tweeted his disdain Friday for NBC's decision not to make the opening ceremony available live.

The advent of Twitter makes it seems as if there's a lot of unhappiness when the majority of viewers are watching NBC on tape delay and appear satisfied with it, Wald said in an interview.

NBC can point to television ratings justifying their approach. The Nielsen company said the opening ceremony drew more than 40 million people Friday, the most ever for one of those Olympic events. Saturday's first night of coverage was seen by 28.7 million, another record, beating every other first night of Olympic competition. In Beijing four years ago, 24 million watched on the corresponding night.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Catherine Vivian Flores DeLeon Guerrero

November 25, 1951-July 27, 2012

Lovingly known as "Cat" or "Tating"

was called by Our Almighty Father to eternal rest at the age of 60 years.

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Francisco Duenas "Kabesa" and Maria Torres Flores
Brother: Felix Torres Flores
Grandson: Kyle Ray DeLeon Guerrero Basa
Brothers –in-law: George Untalan Diaz, Edward Mendiola Fleming
Parents-in-law: Joaquin Cabrera and Consolacion Iglesias Deleon Guerrero

Her love and peaceful spirit will live on in the hearts of her:

Husband: Crispin "Kuri" Iglesias DeLeon Guerrero
Children & Spouses: Francine DeAnna DLG. and Raymond N. Basa (Kathleen Renaysha, Kristin Rae); **Crispin "Ping"** F. DeLeon Guerrero, Jr.; **Marlena Colleen** DLG. and Ricky DLG. Ichihara (Relaina Myleen, Kyler Raymond); **Jack Curtis** F. DeLeon Guerrero; **Gina** V. and William LG. Salas (Steven Jude, William Joseph [William Jeremiah], Matthew James, Tara Joy)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-law: Frank "Sonny" T. and Annie DLG. Flores, Jr., & Family; Evelyn F. and +George U. Diaz & Family; John T. and Ladonna R. Flores & Family; Joseph T. and Alva DLC. Flores & Family; Margaret T. Flores & Family; Donald T. and Shirlina DLG. Flores & Family; Rosie F. and Juan L. Takai & Family

Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Alfredo I. and Remedios R. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Artemio I. and Mercedes SN. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Delfina DLG. and Mike Sherman & Family (Guam); Rosa DLG. and +Herman Pablo & Family (Guam); Rita O. and Antonio Rivera (San Diego, CA); Jose I. and Susana V. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Efrain I. and Hilda G. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Joaquin I. and +Rosita B. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Winnifreda DLG. and Felix Mendiola & Family (Rota); Lorenzo I. and Sinforosa V. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Begonia DLG. Cruz & Family; Antonio I. and Lourdes S. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Jesus I. and Josepha C. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Juan I. and Viola S. DeLeon Guerrero & Family

Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-law: Blas T. Mafnas, Joseph Cruz & Antonia V. Reyes

She is additionally survived by numerous aunties, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, and godchildren.

Daily masses of intention are offered at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Saturday, August 4, 2012, at 7:30 a.m., our Beloved Catherine will be escorted from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You

THE FAMILY

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, July 27th through Thursday, August 2nd, 2012

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

The Watch

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

A group of guys stumble onto an alien invasion during a faux neighborhood watch meeting where they usually do some male bonding to get away from their dull suburban lives in this sci-fi comedy starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn. Akiva Schaffer directs from a script by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. Rosemarie DeWitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises

Friday and Saturday	12:45	3:55	7:00	10:05
Sunday thru Thursday	12:45	3:55	7:00	

Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Christopher Nolan's Batman franchise continues with this Warner Bros. release, the third in the series. The story will pick up after the events of The Dark Knight, with Christian Bale returning as the Caped Crusader—this time pitted against the deadly Bane (Tom Hardy) and Selina Kyle, aka Catwoman (Anne Hathaway). Nolan directs from a script he co-wrote with his brother, Jonathan, working off the story by David Goyer. Joseph Gordon-Levitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises

Friday and Saturday	12:55	4:05	7:10	10:15
Sunday thru Thursday	12:55	4:05	7:10	

Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

Savages

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:20	10:10
Sunday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:20	

Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

The Amazing Spider-Man

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Sunday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:05	

Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Ted

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

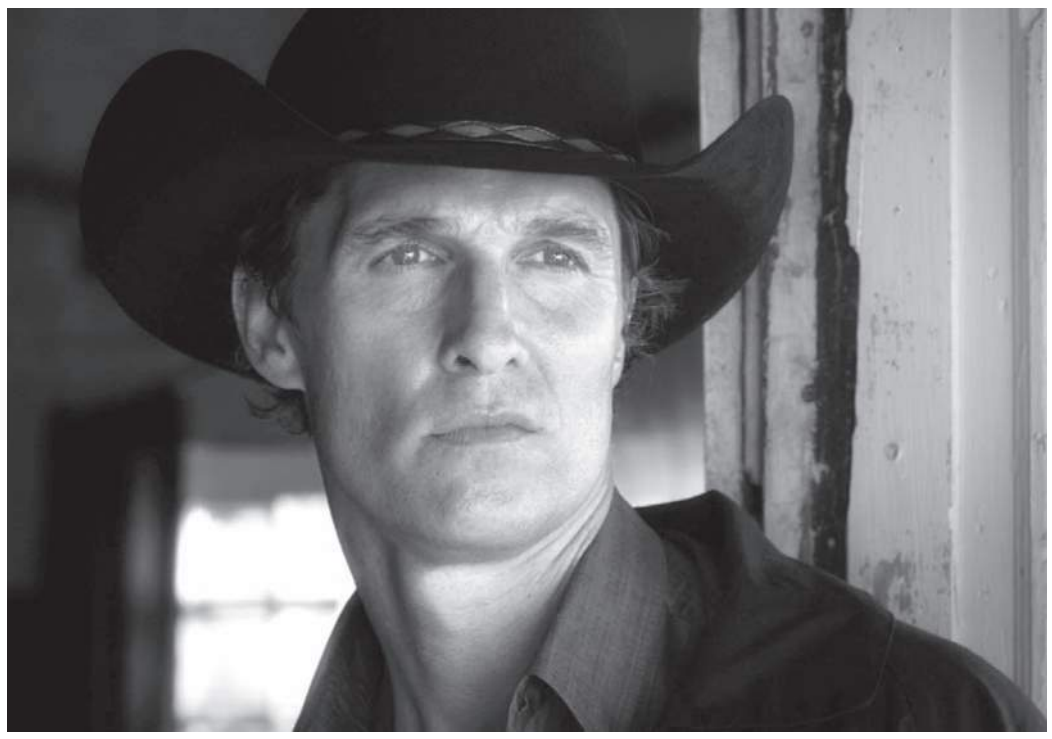
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

'Killer Joe' boasts starry cast, NC-17 rating



AP

This film image released by Independent Pictures shows Matthew McConaughey in a scene from "Killer Joe."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matthew McConaughey is the latest A-lister to go NC-17. He plays the title role in "Killer Joe," which carries the Motion Picture Association of America's maximum restriction because of "graphic disturbing content."

Directed by Oscar winner William Friedkin, "Killer Joe" is only the second NC-17 theatrical film to be released in the U.S. this year, because no one under 18 can be admitted no matter who accompanies them and limited audiences mean limited revenues.

Still, more and more of Hollywood's top talent like McConaughey, Friedkin, and co-stars Emile Hirsch, Gina Gershon and Thomas Haden Church are embracing edgy projects that require the stiff rating.

Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche starred in the NC-17-rated French film "Elles," released earlier this year. "X-Men: First Class" and "Inglourious Basterds" star Michael Fassbender won raves for his turn as a sex addict in last year's only theatrically released NC-17-rated film, "Shame."

"The NC-17 rating is about to go mainstream," said box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com. "If Matthew McConaughey and Michael Fassbender are giving their stamp of approval to the creative freedom that NC-17 allows, people might go for it. While it may affect the ability to market a film, it brings a whole new cache of subversive marketing, and mainstream actors who give it legitimacy, credibility and raise it to a whole new level."

"Let's wear it as a badge and keep it shined!" McConaughey said of the NC-17 rating for "Killer Joe."

The MPAA says on its website that an NC-17-rated film "is one that, in the view of the Rating Board, most parents would consider patently too adult for their children 17 and under."

That's certainly true of "Killer Joe," which opens in New York on Friday and other major cities next week. The MPAA says it contains "graphic disturbing content involving violence and sexuality, and a scene of brutality."

Adapted from the stage by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tracy Letts, it's a story about a small-time drug dealer (Hirsch) who hires a cop moonlighting as a hit-man (McConaughey) to kill his mother for her life-insurance benefits, and offers his virgin sister as collateral. It's adult material.

Still, Friedkin was prepared to edit the film to potentially qualify for an R-rating, "but they wanted to go so far" with the cuts.

"I often say what (the MPAA) wanted to do is what the generals said we had to do in Vietnam, which was destroy the country in order to save it," said the director, who won an Oscar for 1971's "The French Connection" and an Oscar nomination for 1973's "The Exorcist."

"We're not targeting a teenage audience, so it's the correct rating," Friedkin continued. "But there are other films that I think are far more graphic in every way—language, sex and violence—that are playing with an R, because you won't see an NC-17—which is an `X' really—on a major studio film."

McConaughey, who has been breaking out of his broad rom-com appeal with edgier roles, described "Killer Joe" as "a wild, raunchy, cheerfully amoral piece."

"It was a character I hadn't played before," he said of gentlemanly cop/contract killer Joe Cooper. "It was a character I didn't know how to do right away."

The disturbing and darkly funny story with themes of loyalty and vengeance didn't appeal to him right away, either.

"When I first read the thing, I didn't like it. I didn't think it was funny. I was disgusted by it," the actor said. "But then I clicked into my funny-bone side of it and I was like, `I get it. I get that this is absurd and funny, and it's OK.'"

Friedkin says the appeal of the story lies in the desperation of its characters.

"I found it fascinating because at the heart of it, at the crux of it, is small time criminality—the desperate ends that people will go to who find themselves trapped in their own skin and by their own dreams," he said. "All these people have big dreams and they don't know how to accomplish them, and they think that murder is the answer."

He drew comparisons to the real-life cases of O.J. Simpson, Robert Blake and Casey Anthony.

A dark tale like "Killer Joe" will find an audience, Friedkin said, no matter its rating.

"Somebody's going to see these films, and they're gonna like them or hate them. Sometimes they'll be memorable. Often they'll be challenging. And I enjoy doing that," he said. "I don't have any respect for someone who sets out to do a blockbuster. I just really don't. I think that's just a crass, commercial approach."

Films rated NC-17 are rarely commercial. Pedro Almodovar's 2004 film "Bad Education" has the highest box-office tally of any NC-17 film with just over $5 million.

"An NC-17 movie is never going to be about box office," Dergarabedian said. "It's always going to be about creative freedom. That's the best thing about the NC-17."

'Dark Knight' stays atop box office with $64M

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE WRITER

1. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** $64 million. ($122.1 million international.)
2. **"Ice Age: Continental Drift,"** $13 million. ($49.4 million international.)
3. **"The Watch,"** $13 million.
4. **"Step Up Revolution,"** $11.8 million. ($5.2 million international.)
5. **"Ted,"** $7.4 million. ($2.7 million international.)
6. **"The Amazing Spider-Man,"** $6.8 million.
7. **"Brave,"** $4.2 million. ($9.6 million international.)
8. **"Magic Mike,"** $2.6 million. ($5.3 million international.)
9. **"Savages,"** $1.8 million. ($2 million international.)
10. **"Moonrise Kingdom,"** $1.4 million.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Dark Knight Rises" stayed atop the box office for the second straight weekend, making just over $64 million. But it's lagging behind the staggering numbers of its predecessor, 2008's "The Dark Knight."

The final piece in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy has now grossed more than $289 million in its first 10 days in theaters. It dropped 60 percent from its opening weekend of $160.9 million.

By comparison, "The Dark Knight" took a 53 percent drop in its second weekend with a gross of nearly $75.2 million and a 10-day cumulative gross of $313.8 million.

Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., declined to comment on the Sunday estimates again out of respect for the victims of the Aurora, Colo., shooting that left 12 people dead and another 58 injured at a midnight showing of the film on opening night.

But people are still going to the movies, and they did so even last weekend, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. If anything hurt the numbers for all movies this weekend, he said, it was Friday night's opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, which drew a record-setting 40.7 million viewers in the United States.

"For a film that opened as big as this did, considering the situation and what happened last weekend and all that, I would say this is a very strong showing," Dergarabedian said. "It's made almost $300 million in North America and its mid-week (attendance) is very strong. It made $19 million last Monday."

In second place this weekend was the animated family film "Ice Age: Continental Drift," which is still going strong in its third week. It made $13.3 million for a domestic total of nearly $114.9 million. The fourth movie in the 20th Century Fox franchise features the voices of Ray Romano, Denis Leary and Queen Latifah.

Both of the new movies in wide release opened weakly. The 20th Century Fox comedy "The Watch" came in third place with $13 million.

Metallica burns it up at start of Mexico tour

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Metallica vocalist James Hetfield had warned things could get perilous at the start of the band's fifth tour of Mexico, saying "We're very focused on how dangerous this show is."

The audience of more than 22,000 believed it too. Many of the fans were visibly terrified Saturday night as the band re-enacted its burn-down-the-stage performance from 1998's "Cunning Stunts" video album.

At one point a technician fled across the stage like a human torch in a Mexico City show that featured explosions, pyrotechnics, laser lights and the odd giant coffin.

Hours earlier Hetfield said the tour would cover the band's 31 years of performing.

Metallica has scheduled seven more shows at Mexico City's Sports Palace before heading to dates in San Francisco and Edmonton, Canada.

AP

In this Oct. 28, 2011 file photo, U.S. heavy metal and rock band Metallica members from left to right Kirk Hammett, Lars Ulrich, James Hetfield and Robert Trujillo pose for media during a press conference, in Gurgoan on the outskirts of New Delhi, India.

Olympics ceremony album tops download charts

LONDON (AP)—Enjoyed the music-packed Olympics opening ceremony? Now you can buy the album—and thousands have.

The soundtrack album, which went on sale as a download minutes after Friday's ceremony ended, has topped the iTunes album chart in Britain, France, Belgium and Spain, and has reached No. 5 in the United States.

It's No. 5 on the overall British album chart less than two days after its release.

Director Danny Boyle's spectacular opening ceremony was a rollicking celebration of British music. The album includes tracks from—among others—David Bowie, The Pet Shop Boys, Chemical Brothers, Dizzee Rascal, Emeli Sande, Arctic Monkeys and Underworld.

Universal Music will also release an album of the London Olympics' Aug. 12 closing ceremony, which will feature British acts including The Who.

Illness forces Tom Jones to cancel Olympic gig

AP

In this Nov. 13, 2011 file photo, singer Tom Jones performs during a concert in Beirut, Lebanon.

LONDON (AP)—Tom Jones has apologized to fans after pulling out of an Olympic celebration concert in London after contracting bronchitis.

The 72-year-old Welsh crooner had been due to entertain tens of thousands of people at the outdoor concert in Hyde Park on Saturday. He was replaced by British singer Will Young.

Jones tweeted "sorry to all," adding that doctors had ordered him to cancel gigs scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.

He later added: "Thanks for all the lovely messages, I don't know if everyone's understanding and support is making me feel better or worse! You're the best!"

The concert was part of the BT London Live series that is offering fans without Olympic tickets an opportunity to listen to music and watch sports on big screens.

Jackson judge orders probe into children's welfare

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Friday ordered an investigation into the well-being of Michael Jackson's children and a lawyer for the family matriarch said she will move to share guardianship of the children with her grandson.

Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff told a court investigator to interview the three children independently and provide a report for review only by the judge, not attorneys involved in the case.

The order does not spell out a reason for the investigation, but it is likely intended to give the judge another perspective on how Jackson's children are coping after a week of family turmoil that included the absence of their grandmother and a dispute in the driveway of their home amid a feud over the estate of the pop superstar.

The court investigator was ordered to interview the children at school at a time to remain undisclosed. Beckloff received a similar report a few weeks after Jackson's death in 2009 and its contents remain sealed.

Beckloff said during a hearing earlier this week that there were no indications that Katherine Jackson had done anything wrong.

Under the proposed guardianship change, the 82-year-old Jackson would share oversight of the children with Tito Jackson's adult son in a deal that would relieve her of some of the day-to-day stresses of managing a famous family, her attorney Perry Sanders Jr. said. TJ Jackson, 34, is the children's first cousin and performs with his brothers in the group 3T.

The decision was made after a meeting between Katherine Jackson and Sanders on Thursday. He said Michael Jackson's eldest son has told attorneys he approves of the arrangement.

A formal filing for co-guardianship is expected next week. If approved, it would make Tito Joe "TJ" Jackson a co-guardian of the children—Prince, Paris and Blanket—who range in ages from 10 to 15.

TJ Jackson's attorneys suggest the co-guardianship arrangement in a filing Friday. It states that if either adult guardian dies or is unable to serve, the other will act alone in raising the children.

Under the plan, responsibility for managing staff and security at the home would shift to TJ Jackson. Katherine Jackson would keep control of a family allowance worth tens of thousands of dollars a month, Sanders said.

"Mrs. Jackson is extremely pleased with the prospect of enjoying the pleasure of raising Michael's children without the day-to-day tedium of items such as managing the large staff that goes with such a high-profile family and focus her attention on being a grandmother and raising Michael's children," Sanders wrote in a statement.

"She is eager to simply enjoy her great relationship with these children, while deeding over some of the stressors that go hand in hand with being a guardian," he wrote.

Beckloff on Wednesday suspended Katherine Jackson's guardianship duties temporarily and appointed TJ Jackson as temporary guardian. The judge said he would likely re-instate Katherine Jackson as guardian upon her return.

Katherine Jackson had been at a Tucson, Arizona, spa since July 15 with her daughter Rebbie and other relatives and had not spoken to her grandchildren during that time. She returned to the Los Angeles area on Thursday.

"The minor children are very attached to (TJ Jackson) who has been very involved in their lives since the death of their father," TJ Jackson's attorneys wrote in the court filing. "Recent events have highlighted the need for continuity for the minor children."

The filing was required by Beckloff, but Sanders said it would be superseded by a joint petition next week.

Ashes in a whiskey bottle don't belong in mom's grave

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My nephew "George"—who dumped his wife and children for a barmaid—died recently. He was dead broke, so my sister paid for his funeral. I didn't attend, but I was told that George's cremated remains were put in a whiskey bottle by the barmaid, and the bottle was going to be buried in my mother's grave.

Why my sister, his siblings and his kids went along with this idea I'll never know. None of us were raised that way. I found out about it only after the service and put a stop to it. As far as I'm concerned, they could have buried him in a condom, but NOT in my mother's grave! Was I wrong to put a stop to this travesty?

DISGUSTED UNCLE

DEAR DISGUSTED UNCLE: No, you weren't. Your sister, nieces and nephews may have agreed because it seemed like a low-cost way to dispose of George's remains. But I'll bet they didn't know the cemetery would charge a hefty fee for a second interment.

Because your nephew spent his life with a woman who worked in a bar, there's a certain symmetry to the idea of a whiskey bottle being used as his urn. I was told of a widow who did the same thing with her husband's ashes—and then she had the bottle made into a lamp because her husband "lit up her life." Someone should mention it to George's grieving lady friend as a way to keep him with her until they can be buried (or scattered) somewhere together.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I exercise in the pool at a women's health club. Several women there share personal information with each other in loud voices. One of them talks nonstop with anyone she can get to engage with her.

By the way, these women are not exercising. They just stand in the pool socializing. Abby, I'm a captive audience! I can't escape from their chatter. I don't want to hear about their divorce, colonoscopy or aches and pains. I have mentioned this to the staff with no success.

Could you please address voice volume and appropriate sharing in confined spaces?

FRUSTRATED IN FLORIDA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: The staff at the gym may be reluctant to speak to the women because they're afraid it will cause them to cancel their memberships. That's why the person who should address the voice volume issue is YOU. The women may be unaware that you can hear every word they say. If asking the magpies to pipe down doesn't work, then you'll have to swim at a time when they are not around.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was cleaning out my closets and I'm wondering if there is any advice you can give on donating household items to charity. Is there a right way or wrong way to pack them up?

GAIL IN OSHKOSH, WIS.

DEAR GAIL: Any items you decide to donate should be clean and in good working order. If you are getting rid of china or glassware, toss anything that is chipped and wrap the rest individually in newspaper so it arrives at its destination without breaking. Clothing should be clean, neatly folded and free of stains. Before giving your things away, ask yourself if you were on the receiving end, would you want it?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

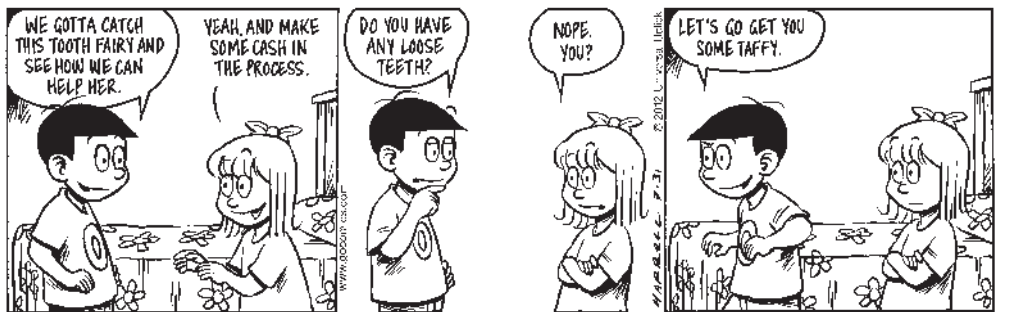
I HAVE A QUESTION, DAD.
SURE.
WHICH EXACTLY ARE THE HALCYON DAYS OF MY YOUTH? IS SATURDAY ONE?
I BELIEVE THEY'RE AWARDED RETROACTIVELY WHEN YOU'RE GROWN UP.
YOU CANT IDENTIFY THEM UNTIL THEN?
HALCYONITY IS RELATIVE.
I'LL GO ASK MOM.
7-31

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

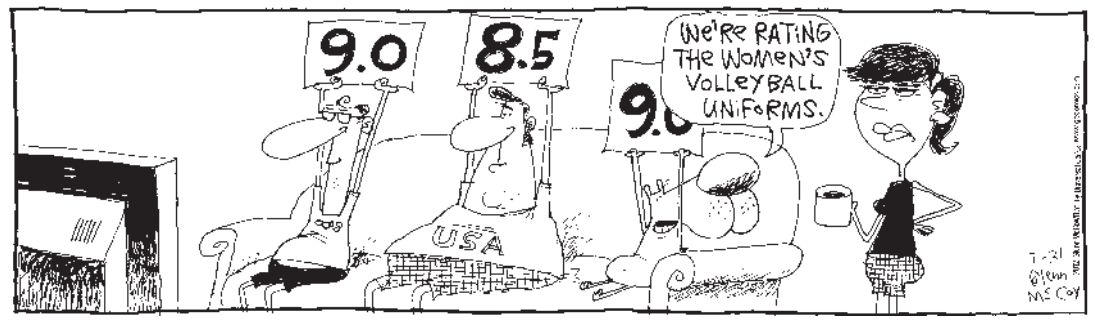
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE GOTTA CATCH THIS TOOTH FAIRY AND SEE HOW WE CAN HELP HER.
YEAH, AND MAKE SOME CASH IN THE PROCESS.
DO YOU HAVE ANY LOOSE TEETH?
NOPE. YOU?
LET'S GO GET YOU SOME TAFFY.
7-31

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

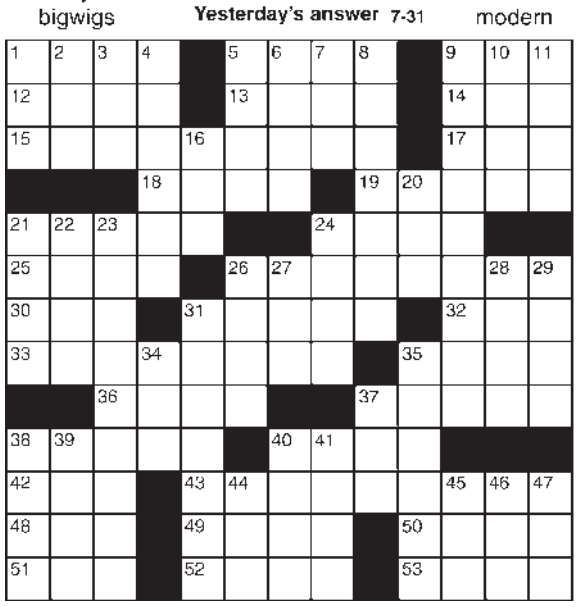
ACROSS
1 Eastern potentate (Var.)
5 Musical symbol
9 Do some lawnwork
12 Scoop holder
13 Verdi opera
14 Indivisible
15 Newly-weds' trip
17 "— Town"
18 Acute
19 Feel
21 Madison Avenue types
24 Marshy tracts
25 Suitable
26 Horse-drawn carriage
30 Yoko of music
31 Top of a wave
32 "— Got a Secret"
33 Army bigwigs
35 Soon, in verse
36 Crazy bird
37 Mix
38 Khaki fabric
40 Calf meat (Fr.)
42 Tatter
43 The Who drummer
48 Ordinal suffix
49 "Born Free" heroine
50 Pleasant
51 Drenched
52 Use a rotary phone
53 Saxo-phone range

DOWN
1 German interjec-tion
2 Cattle call?
3 Hostel
4 Stunk
5 Arrived
6 49-Across, e.g.
7 Tokyo's old name
8 Splays
9 Back-woods' beverage
10 Burden
11 "The Way We —"
16 Longing
20 Early bird?
21 Eager
22 Finished
23 Hold two jobs
24 Employer
26 Cereal choice
27 Prot. or Cath.
28 Shake-speare's river
29 Repair
31 Bent
34 A billion years
35 Bryn Mawr graduate, e.g.
37 Scrooge's cry
38 Staff
39 Loathe
40 Passport endorse-ment
41 And others (Lat.)
44 Inventor Whitney
45 Lubricate
46 Autumn mo.
47 Ultra-modern

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	E	A	D	■	F	I	R	■	C	O	R	E	
A	R	R	O	G	A	T	E	■	O	R	A	L	
H	A	M	M	E	R	E	D	■	H	E	C	K	
■	■	■	A	L	E	■	E	B	O	O	K	S	
P	L	A	I	T	■	B	E	A	R	■	■	■	
H	O	R	N	■	H	A	M	S	T	E	R	■	
I	C	E	■	S	O	R	E	S	■	T	E	A	
■	H	A	M	M	O	N	D	■	S	U	N	S	
■	■	■	A	U	K	S	■	S	M	I	T	H	
S	M	A	R	T	S	■	A	T	E	■	■	■	
M	E	R	V	■	H	A	M	I	L	T	O	N	
E	R	I	E	■	O	V	E	R	T	O	N	E	
W	E	A	L	■	T	E	N	■	S	T	E	W	

Yesterday's answer 7-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rico Rodriguez, 14; Zac Brown, 34; J.K. Rowling, 47; Wesley Snipes, 50.

Happy Birthday: Do whatever is necessary to bypass formidable obstacles. The strength and courage you summon to walk away from someone who isn't an asset will lead to greater confidence and the ability to rise to the top and reach your goals. Determination comes at a price, and the ability to recognize what's required will be your advantage. Your numbers are 3, 10, 13, 25, 36, 41, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can't please everyone, but you must please yourself. Emotions will mount if you take on too much or you feel pressured by someone. Keep things simple and be gracious. Your strength of character will impress your greatest rival and critic. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Finish what you start and make a good impression. Greater involvement in something that interests you will help you realize your potential and determine your goals. Show your talent and ask for what you need to excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't sit on the sidelines waiting for a turn. Connect with people who share your sentiments and can help you get ahead. A change in direction or the way you approach a project will spark renewed enthusiasm. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let anyone bring you down. Embrace the positive side of life and it will help you get things done. Believe in your abilities and you will improve your prospects. It's uncertainty that keeps you from getting ahead. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Being open and honest with professional and personal partners will improve your chance to get what you want. Being tactful, sincere and understanding will work wonders. Keeping secrets will backfire, leaving you in an awkward position. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Detail and precision will be necessary if you want to make a good impression. Set your priorities and don't let anyone talk you into cutting corners that will make you look bad or limit how far you can advance. Network strategically. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Traveling and learning should be emphasized if you want to get ahead or make life changes. Love should not be ignored. Make special plans for two, or get out and mingle with other singles. Self-improvements will boost your confidence. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen carefully, but don't make decisions based on something that benefits someone else. There is money to be made if you choose to put greater emphasis on what you have to offer. Develop a plan or service that can potentially raise your income. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share your thoughts, ideas and plans, and you will be offered guidance and hands-on help. A change to the way you live may be inevitable. Don't sweat it; do what has to be done and move on. Romance is mounting. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't allow anyone to see your frustration. Invite people who have something to contribute to your plans, and you will make headway. Knowing who and what to let go of will be your key to success. Don't let emotions lead you astray. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make changes that fit your financial situation. A budget will set you on the right path and ease your mind. A career change looks possible and prosperous. Love and romance can change your life and your living arrangements. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reorganize and strategize to boost your confidence. Time spent with someone who inspires you will help you make important decisions. Turn something you enjoy doing into a service you can offer. An interesting deal will intrigue you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, impulsive and goal-oriented. You are expressive and adventuresome.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	7		4		2		8	1
		2		3		4		
	9		3		8		6	
		5				8		
	1		2		5		9	
		4		8		7		
8	3		9		6		5	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	4	8	2	9	3	5	7
8	2	3	1	5	7	4	6	9
7	9	5	3	4	6	1	2	8
6	3	7	2	8	5	9	1	4
9	8	1	6	7	4	2	3	5
5	4	2	9	1	3	7	8	6
3	7	8	4	6	2	5	9	1
4	1	9	5	3	8	6	7	2
2	5	6	7	9	1	8	4	3

Difficulty Level ★ 7/30

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RASHIDA JONES — Solution: 9 letters

P	P	M	U	P	P	E	T	S	E	C	R	E	T	Q
R	A	E	Y	G	I	B	A	A	L	R	Ⓐ	C	A	U
E	J	R	G	T	U	D	N	V	E	Ⓝ	O	D	D	I
T	C	O	K	G	H	O	G	D	Ⓘ	P	A	E	H	N
Y	A	I	N	S	Y	V	L	Ⓝ	O	D	T	E	A	C
N	S	L	F	E	N	E	S	U	I	N	E	M	E	Y
E	O	I	K	F	S	N	T	K	A	D	U	O	L	H
T	C	F	A	U	O	H	O	W	A	O	D	H	S	A
W	I	E	O	D	N	O	A	D	Y	E	R	U	A	R
O	A	H	T	O	B	I	K	E	E	I	R	N	P	V
R	L	S	O	C	N	E	V	E	C	B	Y	F	I	A
K	A	R	I	E	L	O	L	E	Y	A	B	I	S	R
L	A	M	T	U	L	I	T	L	L	E	E	I	C	D
M	O	T	C	I	O	T	S	R	I	F	S	P	E	C
C	E	Y	E	T	H	L	E	A	G	E	E	K	S	D

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 7/31

Big Year, Carla, Comic Book, Cop Out, Daisy, Debbie, Dove, Elder, Eliot, Ellie, First, Freaks, Geeks, Harvard, Home, House, I Love You Man, Jones, Kate, Keyes, Kidada, Last Don, Layna, Leah, Life, Lisa, Louisa, Lucy, Maroon, Muppets, Myth, Nat, Network, Nina, Office, Parks, Peace, Peggy, Pisces, Pudding, Quincy, Rice, Secret, Social, Talk, Videos, Wainette, Wanted

Yesterday's Answer: Gun Slinger

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 24 is available for $9.95 plus $5.00 shipping and handling. To order, send a check or money order to: Puzzle Volume 24, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Or you can order by phone, toll-free, 1-800-642-6479. Or you can order online at www.puzzlesociety.com. Credit card orders only.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

8 Masseuse–Royal Thai Massage. 1 yr experience, green card or US citizen preferred pls call 234-2521.

JTS Distribution is looking for (1) Graphic Artist with a Four year Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Must have at least 5 years experience. Call Joe or April at 789-7575.

LOOKING FOR JOB

I have 10 yrs exp. in driving heavy-duty tractors & buses. Simple English, hard work, fast learner. Can do all kinds of job. Tel. 287-6686.

MOVING SALE

TVs, Washer & Dryer, 6500W Generator, Wide Screen Computer Monitors, Computer Desks, 3x Dining Tables, Power Tools, Kitchen Wares, etc. Pls call 323-1217

CAR FOR SALE

1997 Honda CRV New Paint, Clean, New Radiator, New Bumper & AC Condenser. Runs Great, Looks New. Good Tires. Strong Engine $5,500 OBO. Pls call 323-1217.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

We buying broken gaming console: PSP, XBOX 360, Playstation 2/3, Nintendo Wii, NDSL, etc. Tel.287-6686.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

SANDY BEACH HOMES Energy efficient 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695. 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.

WHATZIT Solution: A minute's silence

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

QQ CAR RENTAL, SAN ANTONIO
M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Xi Juan Song Norita Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0330
vs.	)	ORDER
Edward M. Norita Respondent.	)	

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION by the Petitioner for an Order of this Court requiring the Respondent to answer or otherwise plead herein and permitting services to be made by publication under 7 CMC § 1104.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Respondent shall be served by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Petitioner shall publish the Summons once each week for four successive weeks and the last publication shall be not less than 21 days prior to the return date stated herein.

Entered this 5th day of June, 2012.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
JUDGE

Michael A. White, Esq. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6547
Fax: (670) 234-9537

Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- KARMINA I OKAMURA, ALFRED A. PANGELINAN, and the MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION, Defendants.	]]]]]]]]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0074 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, KARMINA I. OKAMURA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated July 12, 2012 by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

MAR PAC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Marianas Pacific Dist. Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Administrative Assistant

- Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
- Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook
- Must be well organized and professional
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must have knowledge of clerical and administrative procedures and systems such as filing and record keeping
- Must be able to operate standard office equipment such as printers, fax and copier machines
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc Offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on August 3rd, 2012.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and Eligibility to work in the CNMI, Drug testing, Police and Court Clearance.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MINUTE

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

US men rack up fouls, but easily defeat France

LONDON (AP) — The shrill of whistles came fast and furious.

For a stretch in the first half, it seemed the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team was having more trouble with the referees than with France.

"There were calls being called that didn't seem right," said forward Carmelo Anthony. "One time down the floor they called it this way, and one time they called it that way."

This squad of Americans will have to make some adjustments as the competition continues, but Sunday they overcame their own sloppiness, the refs and a sluggish start to beat France 98-71 in their tournament opener.

Kevin Durant scored 22 points in his Olympic debut, Kevin Love had 14 and LeBron James added nine points, five rebounds and eight assists.

As openers go, however, the U.S. wasn't dreamy, but still dominant.

The U.S. only led by one point after the first quarter but outscored a France team featuring Tony Parker and five other NBA players 76-50 over the final three periods.

"We got stops and made shots," Durant said, explaining the turning point. "Simple enough."

If it was only that easy.

The Americans became flustered in the first half when they whistled for 18 fouls, some of them on silly reach-ins. As they left the court leading by 16 at halftime, the U.S. players reminded each other that they would have to play much smarter if they intend to win gold medals.

"Our mindset is that from here on out that's how it's going to be officiated," said Anthony, who didn't start and then was forced to the bench in the first half after picking up his third personal.

Durant said he and his teammates let some of the calls affect their play. Not again.

"It's tough, but we know now," he said. "We can't worry about the refs and just play our game. Guys played hard even though there were some calls that didn't go our way. That's the name of the game. We just gotta keep playing through it."

Seeking a second straight gold to match the redemptive one they captured in Beijing four years ago, the Americans expected a tough test from the French. They got enough of one to keep coach Mike Krzyzewski and his staff busy and this superstar-laden squad from feeling too comfortable.

"It wasn't perfect," said James, who only took six shots while setting up his teammates. "We've still got room for improvement. We had too many turnovers, too many fouls and we had a couple of defensive rebounds we could have come up with. But overall, we played a pretty good game for as close to 40 minutes as possible."

Parker, who wore goggles to protect his left eye which was injured by broken glass during a nightclub brawl in New York, didn't want to concede anything to the Americans.

But when asked if the U.S. team can be beat, San Antonio's All-Star guard took a contemplative pause before responding.

"They're going to be very, very tough to beat," Parker said.

At times, the Americans' offense was erratic. The U.S missed its first six 3-pointers and settled too quickly for jump shots instead of driving to the basket. But France wasn't able to capitalize as the U.S. turned up its defensive pressure and forced 18 turnovers.

With first lady Michelle Obama on hand to cheer on the U.S., Durant, Anthony and Tyson Chandler added nine rebounds apiece for the Americans, who will next play Tuesday against Tunisia.

As they left the floor, the U.S. players stopped to hug Mrs. Obama, who can report back to her commander in chief husband that his favorite team has taken its first step toward gold.

With the U.S. leading 52-36 at halftime, Durant opened the second half with a 3-pointer, Bryant dropped one from long range and after James dunked an alley-oop pass from Deron Williams, the Americans led 64-43.

Au revoir, France.

The U.S. team's lead ballooned to 78-51 after three quarters, allowing Krzyzewski to rest Bryant, James and Durant for most of the fourth quarter. With the game well in hand, Krzyzewski even gave 19-year-old Anthony Davis, the top pick in June's NBA draft, his first taste of Olympic play.

Love had one of his best games since making the U.S. team's roster. The Minnesota forward struggled during much of the team's exhibition tour before a breakout against Spain. He built off that game with another good one.

"Hopefully, this will be an omen, at least for me, heading forward and I can continue to play at a high level," Love said. "I needed a game like this under my belt."

James, too, was pleased by Love's contribution.

"Every guy is here for a reason," James said. "He was able to come off the bench and give us a great spark. We're going to need him."

United States' Kevin Durant drives to the basket against France's Boris Diaw during the first half of a preliminary men's basketball game at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 29, 2012, in London. AP

Loaded field to swim 'Race of Century'

LONDON (AP)—It's another "Race of the Century" in the Olympic pool, and this time Michael Phelps isn't even in it.

The 200-meter freestyle final on Monday night features a loaded field, including Sun Yang of China, Park Tae-hwan of South Korea, American Ryan Lochte, Yannick Agnel of France and world recordholder Paul Biedermann of Germany.

Maybe Phelps knew what he was doing when he dropped the event after qualifying in it at the U.S. trials last month.

And Lochte figures to be the longest shot for gold in the race that gives him another shot at Agnel, who chased him down on the final lap to help France win the 4x100 freestyle relay on Sunday.

It could still be a big night for the Americans, with teenager Missy Franklin a medal threat in the 100 backstroke, Matt Grevers favored in the men's 100 back, and Rebecca Soni looking to upgrade the silver she won in 2008 to gold this time in the 100 breaststroke.

At the 2004 Athens Games, the 200 free was dubbed the "Race of the Century" due to the presence of Australian Ian Thorpe, Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands and Phelps. They finished in that order.

Phelps won the race over Park four years ago in Beijing, one of his record eight golds. Now it's up to Lochte to try and keep the title in the U.S.

He failed to do it in a thrilling 4x100 free relay that was the opposite result from Beijing. Four years ago, Jason Lezak ran down Alain Bernard to preserve Phelps' bid to win a record eight gold medals in a single Olympics.

This time, the Americans built a commanding lead over the first three legs. Lochte dove in on the anchor leg with a half-body length lead over the field and was in position to add another gold to his dominating win in the 400 individual medley on Saturday.

But Agnel pulled even with Lochte with 25 meters to go, and the American couldn't hold off the Frenchman.

"I gave everything in the last 50 until he cracked," Agnel said. "In the last 10 meters, I saw that he was really cracking."

Agnel touched in 3 minutes, 9.93 seconds, having gone exactly 1 second faster than Lochte over the last two laps. Lochte and the Americans settled for silver in 3:10.38, while favored Australia didn't even get a medal. Russia took the bronze in 3:11.41, beating the Aussies by 0.22.

"I was just really excited and I think I overswam the first 50 and it hurt me for the last 50," Lochte said. "But we were able to get a medal, so I guess that's good."

He had little experience in the 100 free and had never competed on this relay at the Olympics. But coming off his big win on opening night, Lochte had the hot hand.

"The 100 free, I don't really swim it. I haven't swum it in a long time," he said. "You would think doing distance events, I wouldn't get tired. But sprinting takes a lot out of you."

Despite predictions that records set during the high-tech suit era would be hard to break, world records are falling at the Aquatics Centre. American Dana Vollmer lowered the mark in the 100 butterfly, then Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa broke another in the 100 breaststroke—denying Japan's Kosuke Kitajima an Olympic threepeat. So far, three world records have been set in two days.

The French also had another reason to cheer.

Camille Muffat won the 400 free over American Allison Schmitt in a virtual match race.

Muffat touched about a half-stroke with an Olympic-record time of 4:01.45, while Schmitt was 0.32 seconds back in second. Defending champion Rebecca Adlington took the bronze in Britain's first swimming medal of the games.

Vollmer rallied over the final lap to win the fly in 55.98 seconds, beating the old mark of 56.06 set by Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom at the 2009 world championships.

"I'm on top of the world right now," said Vollmer, who qualified for Athens as a 16-year-old but missed out on the 2008 games.

Lu Ying earned silver in 56.87. Australia's Alicia Coutts grabbed the bronze in 56.94.

Kitajima was trying to become the first male swimmer to win the same race at three straight Olympics. But, like Phelps the night before in the 400 IM, the Japanese star didn't come close.

Van der Burgh was ahead at the turn and gained over the final lap to touch in 58.46, bettering the mark of 58.58 set by Aussie Brenton Rickard.

Australia's Christian Sprenger took the silver in 58.93, and American Brendan Hansen claimed bronze in 59.49.

"That's as fast as I can go right now, and I'm really pleased with the outcome," Hansen said.

Kitajima faded to fifth at 59.79. The night before, Phelps failed in his bid to win a third straight 400 IM title, finishing fourth while Lochte took gold.

Piercy gets validation in Canadian Open

ANCASTER, Ontario (AP)—Scott Piercy began the year with a chip on his shoulder, all because of the blank space on the front of his cap.

He had won for the first time on the PGA Tour at the Reno-Tahoe Open, but it didn't feel like much of a win. It didn't get him into the Masters, or any other major, not even the World Golf Championships.

And in a tough economy, he couldn't attract a sponsor for his hat, the prime billboard in golf.

Instead of giving it away, Piercy went blank.

"We thought we had a couple of deals lined up. It just didn't close as quick as we thought," Piercy said. "It gave me the ability to kind of put a chip on my shoulder and go play well, and maybe create some of my own value so that I'm worth it."

Validation came Sunday in the Canadian Open on a course that required what Piercy referred to as "boring golf."

It was anything but that when he posed with the trophy after his one-shot victory over William McGirt and Robert Garrigus at Hamilton Golf & Country Club.

In a three-man race over the final hour, Piercy had to scramble for bogey on the 14th hole that dropped him two shots behind with four to play. Then, he chipped in for birdie on the next hole and closed with three pars as McGirt and Garrigus make just enough mistakes.

Piercy two-putted from 50 feet below the cup on the 18th hole for a 3-under 67, tying the oldest 72-hole tournament record on the PGA Tour at 263. Then, he had to wait.

AP
Scott Piercy holds the championship trophy after winning the Canadian Open at the Hamilton Golf and County Club in Ancaster, Ontario, on Sunday, July 29, 2012.

Garrigus missed a half-dozen putts inside 8 feet in the final round, the last one proving to be the most costly. From short of the green about 75 feet away, he lagged his first putt to just inside 8 feet and missed that to make a bogey and fall one shot behind.

McGirt, atop the leaderboard for most of the final round and looking poised for a guy who had never seriously contended, three-putted the 15th hole by ramming his 45-foot putt about 15 feet past the cup.

It was his first and only three-putt of the tournament, and it cost him a one-shot lead. Needing a par on 18th to force a playoff, McGirt hit his approach into a deep bunker right of the green, hit a pedestrian bunker shot to 18 feet and missed it.

"I was just trying to make pars and get into the house," said McGirt, who closed with a 69 for his seventh straight round in the 60s.

Garrigus had one last chance with a 15-foot birdie attempt on the 18th. It came up a fraction short, giving him a 70 and a bitter feeling about a wasted opportunity.

"I should have won this tournament by seven shots. Everybody knows that," Garrigus said. "If I could have just made a putt today."

Self-deprecating as ever, Garrigus referred to the final hole as a "good effort on 18 with my two shots and then lagged it up there for a nice, second-place finish."

The win was timely in so many ways for Piercy.

He was headed to the Reno-Tahoe Open to defend his first tour title. Now, he is on his way to Firestone to play in the $8 million Bridgestone Invitational, his debut in a World Golf Championship.

He'll start his season in Kapalua again for the Tournament of Champions, and then make plans in April for his first trip down Magnolia Lane to play in the Masters.

"I've always told myself I'm not going unless I'm in the tournament," Piercy said.

He also went to No. 13 in the FedEx Cup standings, leaving him in reasonable shape to advance to the Tour Championship for the first time and get into all the majors.

Piercy is on the A-list of power players in golf, though he doesn't get much attention without winning big tournaments. That's what led to his comments about "boring golf" on the classic design at Hamilton. He prefers to smash drivers and attack flags. Hamilton is about position.

It raised the eyebrows of proud Canadians when he said that Friday—after opening with rounds of 62-67 to share the lead going into the weekend—because Hamilton is regarded as among the best on the Canadian Open rotation.

Lost in those comments was how much fun it would be to win the tournament. And that's how it felt.

Reminded of that comment, with the silver trophy from golf's third-oldest championship at his side, he smiled.

"That was taken a little out of context," he said. "I like to hit driver a lot, and this golf course I felt took the driver out of my hands. I did say, however, that at the end of the week if the score is good, it is exciting. So I'm pretty excited."

It was anything but boring at the start of his round, when he quickly erased a two-shot deficit by running off four straight birdies. He used iron off the tee for the first two birdies, then turned to his power.

First, he blasted a 5-iron from 236 yards in the rough onto the green on the par-5 fourth hole for a two-putt birdie. Then, he hit driver onto the green at the 296-yard fifth hole for another two-putt birdie.

He never imagined playing the rest of the way at 1-over par and winning the tournament. His 263 tied the record set by Johnny Palmer in 1952 at St. Charles in Winnipeg, Manitoba. That leaves The Barclays (Bob Gilder in 1982) as the tournament that has gone the longest without its scoring record being matched or beaten.

Piercy, meanwhile, was only slightly disappointed at not going to the Reno-Tahoe Open, a special tournament for him because it was his first PGA Tour win.

Because play was so brisk at Hamilton, CBS Sports had time to fill in its broadcast, so the interviews with players were longer than usual.

Piercy was sure to thank his sponsors - one on front of his cap, two more on his shirt sleeve, his equipment sponsor and an apparel sponsor. "Thanks for sticking by me," said the guy who replaced a chip on his shoulder with a big silver trophy.

Greinke outpitched by Hellickson in Angels' debut

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Zack Greinke was outpitched by Jeremy Hellickson in his Los Angeles Angels' debut, losing to the Tampa Bay Rays 2-0 Sunday.

Obtained Friday from Milwaukee, the 2009 American League Cy Young pitching award winner allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings and struck out eight.

Greinke (0-1), eligible for free agency after the season, was 9-3 with a 3.44 ERA in 21 starts with the Brewers.

Hellickson (6-6) pitched two-hit ball through six innings, striking out five and walking none.

Red Sox 3, Yankees 2, 10 innings

In New York, Pedro Ciriaco blooped an RBI single in the 10th inning for his latest big hit against New York as Boston squeaked out the victory moments after manager Bobby Valentine was ejected.

Felix Doubront held the Yankees scoreless until Russell Martin homered leading off the seventh inning. Martin also hit a tying single with two outs in the eighth off closer Alfredo Aceves (2-6), who went the rest of the way for the win.

Ryan Sweeney hit an early two-run double for the Red Sox, who took two of three in their first visit to New York this season despite grounding into four double plays against Hiroki Kuroda.

Orioles 6, Athletics 1

In Baltimore, rookie Chen Wei-yin struck out a career-high 12, Matt Wieters hit a three-run homer and the Baltimore Orioles beat Oakland to avoid a three-game sweep.

It was a rare setback for the A's, who fell to 18-4 this month.

Rangers 2, White Sox 0

In Arlington, Texas, Scott Feldman equaled a career high by pitching eight shutout innings as Texas ended a two-game skid with a victory over Chicago.

David Murphy had three hits, including a double, and Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz each scored a run.

Tigers 4, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Jhonny Peralta hit two home runs and Doug Fister pitched eight innings as Detroit beat Toronto to avert a three-game sweep.

The Tigers had lost three in a row and four of five to fall out of the AL Central lead.

Twins 5, Indians 1

In Minneapolis, Justin Morneau hit a two-run homer, Brian Duensing threw six smooth innings as a late fill-in for Francisco Liriano as Minnesota finished a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Duensing (2-6) lost all four of his previous starts this year, but he needed only 70 pitches to finish six frames and yield to the bullpen after scattering five singles without a walk.

Mariners 7, Royals 6

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez shook off a line drive to his left wrist and threw seven strong innings as Seattle beat Kansas City for a four-game sweep.

Seattle swept Kansas City in a four-game set for the first time since May 2001.

Reds 7, Rockies 2

In Denver, the Cincinnati Reds posted their 10th straight win and matched their best streak in 14 years as Mat Latos pitched eight strong innings and Drew Stubbs homered over the Colorado Rockies.

The Reds' winning streak is their longest since they took 10 in a row in 1998. They are two short of the franchise record, done twice and last accomplished in 1957.

Astros 9, Pirates 5

In Houston, the Astros ended their team-record losing streak at 12 games, beating Pittsburgh behind three hits and three RBIs from Marwin Gonzalez.

Hours after Houston traded third baseman Chris Johnson to Arizona—the Astros' fifth deal of the month—Jordan Schafer homered and drove in three runs.

Dodgers 4, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Clayton Kershaw pitched a five-hitter for his second shutout of the season as Los Angeles beat San Francisco to complete a three-game sweep of the NL West leader.

Luis Cruz drove in two runs, and Matt Kemp, Andre Ethier, James Loney and Mark Ellis had two hits apiece for Los Angeles (56-47), which closed within one percentage point of San Francisco (55-46).

Nationals 11, Brewers 10, 11 innings.

In Milwaukee, Michael Morse hit a tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning, then delivered a two-run double in the 11th that sent Washington over Milwaukee.

Bryce Harper drew a leadoff walk from Jose Veras (3-4) in the 11th and Ryan Zimmerman singled. One out later, Morse doubled down the left-field line for an 11-9 lead.

Braves 6, Phillies 2

In Atlanta, Jason Heyward and Chipper Jones homered off Roy Halladay as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep of last-placed Philadelphia.

Atlanta has won five straight.

Tim Hudson (10-4) gave up two runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings. Jonny Venters, Chad Durbin, Eric O'Flaherty and Cristhian Martinez followed with two-hit relief.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, R.A. Dickey rebounded from his first loss in three months to gain his NL-leading 14th win as New York beat Arizona for just its third victory in 17 games.

Dickey (14-2) allowed an unearned run and four hits in seven innings, striking out eight, walking three and hitting a batter. The knuckleballer won for the 11th time in 12 decisions and matched Tampa Bay's David Price for the major league lead in wins.

Marlins 5, Padres 4

In Miami, with scouts from about a dozen teams watching, Josh Johnson equaled a career high with six walks as Miami rallied from a two-run deficit to beat San Diego in 10 innings.

Johnson, the 2010 NL ERA champion, allowed two runs—one earned—and two hits in five innings with four strikeouts. Miami, a disappointing 47-54 following a $191 million free-agent spending spree, already has dealt Hanley Ramirez, Omar Infante, and Anibal Sanchez in recent weeks and has discussed possible trades involving Johnson.

Cubs 4, Cardinals 2

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning that lifted Chicago over St. Louis.

Starlin Castro led off the 10th with a single against Trevor Rosenthal (0-1) and Rizzo followed with his seventh homer.

James Russell (5-0) worked an inning for the win. The Cubs are 12-3 in their last 15 home games.

Guerrero beats Aydin for interim WBC title

BOXING

SAN JOSE, California (AP)—Robert Guerrero delighted his home crowd by unanimously outpointing Selcuk Aydin on Saturday night to win the WBC interim welterweight title.

Aydin (23-1, 17 KOs) landed the harder punches throughout the fight, but Guerrero (30-1-1, 18 KOs) landed considerably more and that proved to be the difference to the judges.

Guerrero won 117-111 on one judge's card and 116-112 on the other two.

Guerrero moved up two weight classes to take on Aydin in his first fight since beating Michael Katsidis in a lightweight battle in April 2011. Guerrero had to cancel his fight last summer against Marcos Maidana to undergo surgery on his left shoulder.

He said he had some rust from the time off but was pleased with how he performed.

"I felt great at welterweight," Guerrero said. "I wanted to fight the best and that's why I fought Selcuk. No one in the division wanted to fight him. He's been avoided. I came in and took care of business. I believe in my talents and I boxed and used my skills tonight."

Guerrero, who grew up and lives about 25 miles south in Gilroy, was the overwhelming fan favorite against the Turkish-born Aydin in his second career fight in San Jose.

Guerrero, a 126-pound featherweight for most of his career, also has moved up two weight classes to 145 pounds to take on Aydin, hoping it would lead to a possible date with a higher-profile fighter like Floyd Mayweather Jr. or Manny Pacquiao.

Mayweather, who gets out of jail next month, holds the full WBC welterweight title. By winning on Saturday, Guerrero becomes the mandatory challenger although it's uncertain who Mayweather will fight next.

Whether Guerrero did enough to warrant that kind of fight remains to be seen. He threw 972 punches to 528 for Aydin, according to CompuBox, and connected on 254 to Aydin's 189. But Guerrero didn't seem to have the power needed to really hurt Aydin.

Aydin said he felt he lacked energy and asked his corner for sugar water between rounds to help out.

"The judges were not my problem. I was the problem," Aydin said. "I couldn't do what I wanted to do. After the fourth round, something happened. It was like I was seeing double. But there's no excuse. I lost the fight."

Aydin earned the nickname mini-Tyson for his ability to post early knockouts. But he was unable to do that against the more experienced Guerrero, who had the edge early despite having less power behind his punches than Aydin.

The bad blood that showed up during a pre-fight conference call and weigh-in over Aydin's frustration about being overlooked by the U.S. public showed up after the two exchanged words and smiles after late punches following the second round.

Guerrero stunned Aydin with a hard left hand in the fourth round but was unable to land many big punches. Aydin delivered a handful of hard right-hand blows that left Guerrero staggering for a moment in the seventh and had the partisan crowd worried. But Guerrero responded with an aggressive eighth round and hung on to win the decision.

"It felt great having all the support of my local fans and family here tonight," Guerrero said "I'm back.

Guerrero had scores of friends and family members in the crowd, including one particularly special fan who had never seen him fight before.

Katharina Zech, a 22-year-old from Munich, had donated bone marrow two years ago that ended up saving the life of Guerrero's wife Casey. Casey Guerrero had been ravaged by leukemia and needed a bone marrow transplant to survive and got it from Zech.

"Casey made me want to fight harder and reach my goals," Guerrero said.

The Guerreros met Zech in an emotional scene in Arizona in April and Zech came back to the United States last week to see Guerrero fight.

In the co-main event, Shawn Porter (20-0, 14 KOs) beat Alfonso Gomez (23-6-2, 12 KOs) of Mexico in a unanimous decision for the vacant NABO Welterweight title.

LOPSIDED

From Page 28

With the win, IT&E kept pace with the league-leading Astig Futsal, which is ahead by only one victory against the former with its undefeated 4-0-0 card. IT&E also has scored 36 goals, 16 goals less than Astig Futsal's and 25 goals more than the current total of the third-running Thundercats (2-0-3). Mean Machine has only gained four goals and has yet to win in five games.

WOMEN'S
Shirley's 6, Mellow Yellow 0

Shirley's Coffee Shop regained the top spot in the women's division after shutting out Mellow Yellow.

Shirley's now has a 5-1-1 mark, reclaiming the No. 1 spot from Xerox, which lost the lead and fell to a 5-1-2 card after bowing to Baked Girls last Thursday.

Irish Pagarao paced Shirley's with her twin goals, making one apiece in the first and second half. Charlene Lizardo and Jeraldine Castillo also scored in the opening frame, while Kaiza Lucido and Jhaneeka Atalig drained the two other goals for Shirley's in the second half, bringing their total in seven games to 32.

Mellow Yellow still has 10 goals after failing to score in last Saturday's match and dropped to a dismal 0-1-6 slate.

Wild Bill's 7, IT&E Awesome 2

In the second game last Saturday, Wild Bill's eased past IT&E Awesome.

After a slim 2-1 halftime lead, Wild Bill's got its rhythm in the second half en route to the easy win.

Pratoom Stofffer, who was scoreless in the first half, redeemed herself in the second as he logged three goals. Sara Allen had two in the second half, duplicating her pair of goals in the first 25 minutes of play.

Negahr Rastguiy put IT&E Awesome in the board in the first half, while Jeralyn Castillo scored in the second half.

Wild Bill's got its fourth win in seven games to retain the No. 3 spot in the six-team field, while IT&E Awesome stayed at the bottom half of the team standings with its 1-0-5 card.

MEN'S
Godfather's 11, IT&E 3

Godfather's had another walk in the park, routing IT&E in the only men's game played over the weekend.

Godfather's, which whipped Shirley's in its fifth game, 20-8, claimed win No. 5 as early as in the first half after leading, 8-1. David Duenas, Chris Nelson, and Ropari Tonnu canned two goals each, while Pete Houk and Steve McKagan contributed one apiece to have the game in the bag for Godfather's.

Nelson was still at it in the second half, adding two more goals, while Tonuu completed a hat-trick with one more goal.

Joshua Borja scored all of IT&E's three goals, making one in the first and tallying a pair in the second.

IT&E (1-0-4) suffered back-to-back losses over the weekend after a no-show in its Saturday game against Go Green. The victory was only the first for Go Green after five futile attempts to break into the win column.

Go Green and IT&E are at the last two places in the team standings, behind Wild Bill's (5-0-0), Godfather's (5-0-1), and Shirley's (1-0-3).

PHELPS

From Page 28

medley from the opening stroke, making an early case for himself as the face of swimming in these games while thrashing a guy he never used to be able to beat.

And in the process, Lochte may have shattered the Phelps mystique once and for all.

Untouchable in Beijing. Oh, so human in London.

This wasn't just a loss, it was a blowout. By the time Phelps finally touched the wall in fourth place, Lochte had been resting there for more than 4 seconds—an eternity in swimming.

What followed next was almost as revealing. While Lochte celebrated, Phelps climbed slowly from the pool, like it was a chore just to make it out. He then trudged off to answer a few questions from reporters and try to figure out where it all went wrong.

Worn out already, and six races still to go.

"It was just a crappy race," Phelps said by way of explanation "I felt fine the first 200, then I don't know."

Not surprising, if only because the athlete is always the last one to know. At age 27 Phelps has a lot of mileage under his long arms, a lot of history to have to live up to. He's been swimming for medals since the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and seemed almost giddy when he tweeted on Friday that he had finished his last practice as a competitive swimmer.

Maybe he didn't have the fire inside for training. Maybe he's starting to slow just a bit from the wear and tear.

Or maybe he just had what he claims he had—a bad day.

Lochte would be among those interested in finding out. He once lost 17 straight races in the 200-meter individual medley to Phelps, and the two meet Wednesday in that race in their only other confrontation in the games.

"I'll tell you what, it's weird. It's weird not having Michael next to me on the medal stand," Lochte said. "Michael to me is still one of the world's greatest ... and no matter what happens he'll go down as one of the world's greatest."

Phelps was always taking a chance that he might be swimming in one Olympics too many, surely one 400-meter IM too many after declaring four years ago that his win in that event would be his last. The draw of these games was too much, though, with a chance to add to his haul and become the all-time greatest medal winner in Olympic history.

He's got plenty of races left to do that, if things remain according to plan. Six in all, and all he needs is three medals to surpass the record of 18 won by Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina. There's a chance he can even add to his total of 14 gold medals, which is five more than the second-best number on the list.

"The biggest thing now is to try to look forward," Phelps said. "I have a bunch of other races, and hopefully we can finish a lot better than how we started."

It's not going to hurt his legacy if he doesn't. That's already encased in gold, the six he won in Athens and the record eight he grabbed in Beijing, when he set Olympic records almost every day. He surpassed Mark Spitz there to claim the title of best swimmer ever, and it's going to be a long time, if ever, before someone takes it from him.

Spitz took his seven medals and retired, content to make a living off his brilliant performance in Munich. Phelps has made a pretty good living himself, despite the fact he's an introvert with little charisma until the moment he gets into the water.

He came back for one last Olympics expecting great things because, well, he's always done great things. Aside from his first Olympics—when he was a 15-year-old qualified in just one event—he won medals in every Olympic race he had ever been in before Saturday night. The total was both staggering and historic—14 gold and two bronze in 16 races—so much so that he makes the short list of any compilation of greatest Olympians ever.

That's what made it so hard to watch for a crowd that, once it arrived, was pumped for one of the hottest matchups of the games. Phelps didn't exactly flounder in the water, but he fell behind early to Lochte and then was passed by two other swimmers before finally finishing in 4:09.28, well off the world record of 4:03.84 he set in China.

It's too early to declare him finished, too soon to say he's washed up. But there's a crack in the facade, something that should give hope to anyone competing against him over the next week.

"A lot of people say Michael is inhuman, but you know what?" Lochte said. "He's just like all of us."

He wasn't in Beijing, hasn't been for a long time.

All it took was one night at the pool in these Olympics to change that.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	41	.594	–
Baltimore	53	49	.520	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	53	49	.520	7 1/2
Toronto	51	50	.505	9
Boston	51	51	.500	9 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	55	46	.545	–
Detroit	54	48	.529	1 1/2
Cleveland	50	52	.490	5 1/2
Minnesota	43	58	.426	12
Kansas City	41	60	.406	14

West Division

Texas	59	41	.590	–
Oakland	55	46	.545	4 1/2
Los Angeles	55	47	.539	5
Seattle	47	57	.452	14

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	61	40	.604	–
Atlanta	57	44	.564	4
New York	49	53	.480	12 1/2
Miami	47	54	.465	14
Philadelphia	45	57	.441	16 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	61	40	.604	–
Pittsburgh	58	43	.574	3
St. Louis	54	48	.529	7 1/2
Milwaukee	45	56	.446	16
Chicago	42	58	.420	18 1/2
Houston	35	68	.340	27

West Division

San Francisco	55	46	.545	–
Los Angeles	56	47	.544	–
Arizona	51	51	.500	4 1/2
San Diego	43	60	.417	13
Colorado	37	63	.370	17 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUMAPIT

From Page 28

King Robert Talavera only averaged 196.25 pinfalls. Omechelang posted 200-plus pinfalls on three occasions (209, 216, 213), but failed to snatch the King of the Lanes crown from Dumapit, as the latter had only 158 in Game 1. Talavera's lone 200-plus pinfalls came in Game 4 (248) last Sunday and he settled for third after only posting only 178, 192, and 167 in the first three games.

In the Queen of the Lanes, Cal also bowled in the opening day and her four-game total of 653 remained on top of the list after Day 2 of the competition. Diana Chong, who also joined the Day 1 roll-off retained the No. 1 spot with her 639 pinfalls, while Myrna Santos bowled on Day 2 and rounded the Top 3 with her 637 pinfalls.

Cal, who got her second monthly title after winning the May roll-offs, enjoyed a 14-pinfall lead over Chong after collecting 146, 139, 225, and 143 pinfalls from Games 1 to 4 and averaging 163.25. Chong had her best showing in Game 1 with 176 pinfalls and tallied 143, 172, and 148 in the last three games for an average of 159.75. Santos knocked down at least 170 pins twice (173 in Game 1 and 170 in Game 4) and adding her 160 and 134 in Games 2 and 3, she averaged 159.25.

Meanwhile, in the Fiji Prince of the Lanes, M.J. Aldan won for the fifth straight time.

Aldan, who started his winning run in March, had a four-game total of 667 pinfalls to easily beat Gus Demapan (541), Ryan Batac (514), and Angel Iglecias (459).

Aldan made progress in the first three games of the July roll-off last Sunday, recording 158, 171, and 200 pinfalls before slowing down with his 138 in Game 4. He averaged 166.75 pinfalls, more than 30 pinfalls ahead of Demapan (119.146, 132, and 144), who had a 135.25 average.

Bert Camacho shines in 2012 season of CSA

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sakudi'sdo-it-all outfielder Bert Camacho was by far the most decorated athlete in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League awards ceremony held after the conclusion of the championship duels Friday night at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

After her team held on to clinch their second consecutive league championship, Camacho was selected as the most valuable player of the regular season.

She also earned a number of other individual honors, including batting champion (0.760 batting average), most RBIs (21), and most doubles (4).

In fact, a number of Sakudi players also went home with individual trophies.

Camacho's fellow outfielder Liz Lebria walked away with the most runs plum (30) and nabbed a share of most triples honors with teammate Thelma Mizer and 670 Babes' Melissa Benjamin as the trio hammered three apiece during the regular season.

In addition, Sakudi rookie shortstop Juljen Ngeskebei turned out to be a great executive decision by the two-time champs as the young speedster was selected as the MVP of the final series for her tremendous defensive performance.

For some added icing on the cake, Sakudi pitcher Eileen Babauta swept both the earned run average (1.72) and strikeout queen (28) honors.

Before being handed their second title, Sakudi was bestowed with their second consecutive pennant championship, while other team awards were presented to runner-up 670 Babes and third place Enamo Meta, respectively. 670 Babes also received the sportsmanship award.

Men's league champions Your Balls, meanwhile, enjoyed its shining moment at the end of the night, but before them Natibu and Gagau Eyez accepted their respective second and third place trophies.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Your Balls' J.P. Lizama, front center, stands with Sakudi's Juljen Ngeskebei, front right, after being selected as the Chamolinian Softball Association's respective men's and women's most valuable players in the finals during the 2nd Budweiser Softball League awards presentation held following Friday's championship matches at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

X-clusive's Vince Cepeda, front left, smiles for the camera with Sakudi's Bert Camacho after accepting the their respective men's and women's regular season most valuable player trophies during CSA's 2nd Budweiser Softball League awards presentation held after Friday's championship matches at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The 2011 champion Man Amigos came up short this year, but managed to swipe its first pennant title. Sportsmanship honors, meanwhile, went to the "always punctual" Managaha Boys, who received one of the loudest applauses from the crowd.

Though Sakudi hogged the ladies' individual hardware, the men's awards were spread out diversely among the field.

Your Balls' J.P. Lizama was hailed as the men's most valuable player in the finals for jacking a game-tying three-run homer at the end of regulation that set the table for the big win, while regular season MVP honors went to X-clusive's Vince Cepeda in what was a very tough decision for league organizers to make.

Cepeda batted 0.667 on the year for 29 RBIs, but in the end, it was his clutch defense in the outfield that made the difference.

Natibu's Bruce Norita finished as the men's batting champ (0.800 batting average); Manelos' Angel Reyes clubbed the most doubles (8); while teammate Shane Mendiola topped the triples department (3).

Man Amigos' Roy Celis (31) finished with the most runs scored, Your Balls' Audie Maratita (33) came away with the most RBIs, 6-Pack pitcher Melvin Aldan (5.70 ERA) maintained the lowest ERA; and Manelos hurler Yubert Alepuyo was crowned strikeout king (14).

A special plaque of appreciation was also presented to Mar-Pac's Mel Tenorio for his company's sponsorship of the league

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Derrick Rangamar, left, and Mark Nuique pose for a photo backstage during PXC 32 last Saturday at the University of Guam Field House.

Saipan bets lose bouts in PXC 32

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI mixed martial artists Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-1) and Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (3-12) both endured a pair of tough first round losses in Pacific Xtreme Combat 32 held last Saturday at the University of Guam Field House.

Nuique came into his first off-island test undefeated, but the current Trench Tech bantamweight champion absorbed his first loss last weekend when he succumbed to Countershot MMA's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (11-5).

Meanwhile, the third time was not a charm for Rangamar who experienced yet another defeat in Guam. Rangamar lost in a buzzer-beater tap out win by Guam's up-and-coming fighter Kyle Aguon (3-3) of Spike 22.

Trench Tech Promotions president Cuki Alvarez traveled with Nuique and Rangamar and while Rangamar fights for Marianas Elite, he more or less took both fighters under his wing.

According to Alvarez, who has maintained his reputation as one of Saipan's most astute MMA experts, "[Nuique] did great until he got caught by a rogue arm bar, which goes to show it's not how you start, but how you finish…[Rangamar] did a good. [He] played defense most of the round until he got head and armed and Aguon tapped him out with just one second on the clock."

It may be back to the drawing board for the aspiring MMA athletes, but on a bright note, the PXC was impressed enough with Nuique's performance that he was invited back for a second opportunity to notch his first off-island victory.

Perhaps local MMA fans can get an up close view of the pair in action in Trench Tech's upcoming Art of War 7 No-Gi Grappling and Submissions Challenge, which goes down on Aug. 11 from 10am to 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Stay tuned for an update with the latest details.

For more information, contact Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez at 483-4662.

Hoops outlasts QQ Rent-A-Car in double overtime

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hoops fashioned out a hard-earned 88-80 double overtime victory against QQ Rent-A-Car as the Summer Jam Basketball Tournament tipped off last weekend at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Meanwhile, Mobil ran Team 1 to the ground, 73-56, last Saturday. The second game was postponed due to rain, the same fate that befell Sunday's second game.

The tournament resumes this Saturday with three games starting at 6pm.

The tentative matchups include Hip Hop Thunder challenging Dante's team at 6pm, QQ Rent-A-Car taking on Team 1 at 7pm, followed by Mobil against Hoops at 8pm. Players are requested to show up 15 minutes before game time to warm up.

Last Sunday, Hoops got off to a bad start allowing QQ Rent-A-Car to take a 34-21 after the first half thanks to a late 3-pointer by Marlon Sison and an 8-point bundle by Lerio Pagarao.

Rolly Paraiso and Mike Bondoc chipped in another 13 markers to help QQ Rent-A-Car take the reins of the game.

Hoops kept chomping at the bit, however, and grinded out a 59-all deadlock at the end of regulation.

Trevor Ogumoro took over in the second half and sank a trio of three-balls for 19 points in the clutch.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Hoops' Sahj Hossain tries to drive past QQ Rent-A-Car's Mike Bondoc in Sunday's Summer Jam Basketball Tournament matchup held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

A couple of welcome baskets from Kelvin Fitial, Sahj Hossain, Alex Lauron, and Ben Lisua also contributed to the rally.

QQ Rent-A-Car managed to match Ogumoro's effort from behind the arc, but front man Pagarao was held to just 10 points at crunch time.

The team converted three late free throws late in the period, but Ogumoro's final 3-pointer forced the bonus frame.

Both teams had gas left in the tank through the first overtime period frame as the count shifted to 71-all.

QQ Rent-A-Car's Pagarao kept attacking the hoop and started out with 4 points in the second overtime, but had a rough landing after colliding with Hoops' Fitial under the basket and had to take a seat for the rest of the game.

With him out of commission, there was no one to fill the void and Hoops held on strong in the final minute.

Hoops' Ogumoro led all scorers with 31 points, Pagarao finished with 26 on the short end.

Mobil, meanwhile, worked out a slim 34-30 edge at the half on Saturday before running away in the second period. Saturday's game was played under two halves.

They nailed a couple of early 3-pointers out of the gate, one of which came from Dave Sablan who led the group with 11 markers in the period.

Kae Barnardo, John Joyner, and Gyles Ruluked contributed 19 points altogether in support of Sablan.

Team 1 hung around early on, but Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman came off the bench in the latter frame and delivered 14 points, and although Team 1 rang in three treys, they were never able to spark a real comeback.

Mobil's Sablan finished with a game-high 19 points, while Team 1's Preston Basa scrambled for 14 in defeat.

SATURDAY

Mobil 73 – D. Sablan 19, Rabauliman 16, Bernardo 13, Ruluked 10,Joyner 8, Basila 2, Gapor 2, B Sablan 2

Team 1 56 – Basa 14, Manibusan 11, Sablan 9, Avila 6, Peters 5, Lizama 5, Norita 2, Teregeyo 2, Diaz 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-30, 73-56.

SUNDAY

Hoops 88 – Ogumoro 31, Fitial 12, Hossain 12, Lisua 10, Lauron 6, Camacho 6, Mendez 5, Tenorio 2, Diaz 2.

QQ Rent-A-Car 80 – Pagarao 26, Mangali 20, Sison 11, Paraiso 9, Bondoc 7, Concepcion 2, Acosta 2.

Scoring by Quarters: 21-34, 59-59, 71-71 (OT1), 88-80 (OT2).

Piercy gets validation in Canadian Open

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

US men rack up fouls, but easily defeat France

PAGE 24

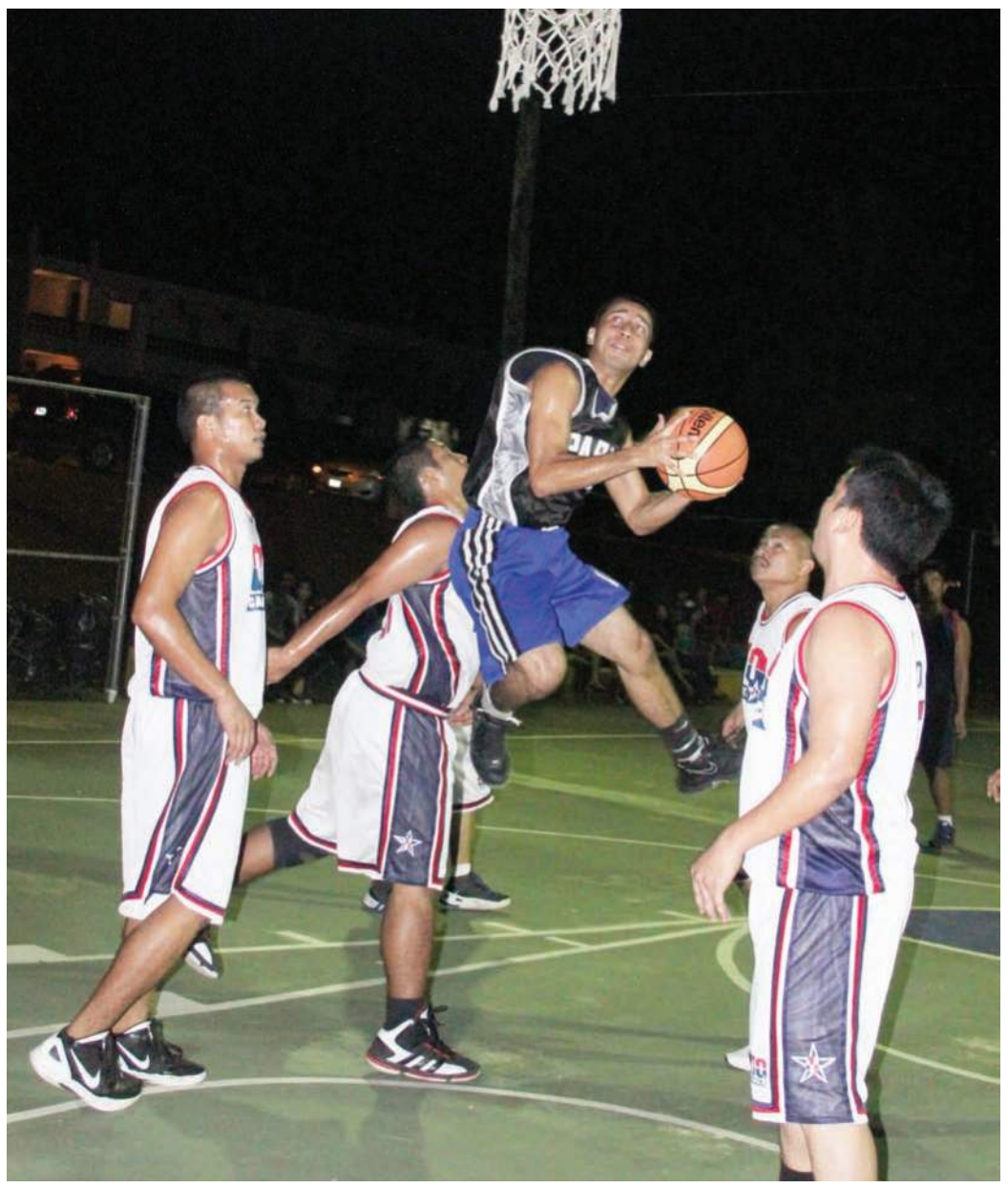
Manglona powers Anjie's Boys past QQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eugene Manglona exploded for 35 points in his debut in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League to lift Anjie's Boys to a 71-68 victory over QQ Rent-A-Car last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Anjie's Boys-QQ tiff was the second game featured in the opening day of the DLX B league and the victory allowed the former to join Brgy. San Antonio in the winners' circle. San Antonio stunned the defending champion KFC/Taco Bell in the opener, 73-65.

Manglona was at the forefront of Anjie's Boys' offense in every quarter and his teammates' quickness was too much for the much older and slower players. Manglona scored 12 straight markers at one point in the third quarter, turning a 33-26 halftime advantage to a 55-42 lead. The former Kagman High School standout finished the third period alone with 14 points, while CNMI U17 National Team member Jimmy Tudela scored Anjie's Boys' last 6 points in that canto to stretch their lead to double digits.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Anjie's Boys' Eugene Manglona is fouled as he challenges a phalanx of QQ Rent-A-Car defenders during their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Marlon Sison, Kermit Concepcion, and Joe Acosta tried to bring QQ back into the game in the fourth, as they combined for 20 of the team's 25 points. However, Manglona was still there to halt QQ's rally, adding 9 more markers in the final canto. Ezra Caro also hit timely baskets in the fourth, chipping in 5, while Irvyn Malonzo made two free throws in the homestretch to seal the win.

Caro was the other double-figure scorer for Anjie's Boys, nailing 15, while Tudela contributed 9. Sison had 17 to lead QQ, which also got 16 markers from Concepcion.

Concepcion scored QQ's first 6 points to keep the team afloat after the opening quarter, 11-13. However, Anjie's Boys widened the gap in the second canto, 33-26, as QQ failed to neutralize Manglona, who drained 8 in that frame.

Manglona then had his best game in the third period, getting away with four fastbreak straight layups and one and-1 play to pad Anjie's Boys' lead, while Tudela and Caro also used their height and mobility advantage to get inside points against the much slower frontliners of QQ.

Meanwhile, four other teams were scheduled to play their first game last night. The second edition of the DLX B league has 18 squads.

Anjie's Boys 71 – Manglona 35, E. Caro 15, Tudela 9, Mamaril 4, T. Caro 2, Mettao 2, Malonzo 2, Javier 2.

QQ Rent-A-Car 67 – Sison 17, Concepcion 16, Acosta 8, Bondoc 6, DL Guerrero 4, Saplan 4, Tuwon 4, Palacios 2, Lansang 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-11, 33-26, 55-42, 71-67.

Dumapit

Cal

Dumapit, Cal keep July honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Raul Dumapit and Ron Cal set the bar in last weekend's Saipan Bowling Association Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center to take the July crowns.

Dumapit competed in the first day of the July roll-offs last Saturday and earned Day 1's best score of 813 pinfalls, beating 11 other keglers. His four-game total was then unbeaten on Day 2, as eventual runner-up mustered only 792 pinfalls last Sunday. Bowlers are allowed to join both days of the monthly roll-offs, but only the higher score is counted.

A 254-pinfall performance in Game 1 gave Dumapit the needed momentum at the start of the monthly tournament. He also knocked down 200-plus pins in Game 4 (213) to go with his 158 and 188 in Games 2 and 3 for an average of 203.05 pinfalls.

Dumapit was the lone bowler to average at least 200 pinfalls, as Omechelang fell a pinfall short (199) and third placer and January

See DUMAPIT on Page 26

Phelps proves human after all

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

LONDON (AP)— The crowd at the Olympic Aquatics Centre arrived late, as if they were trying to stall off the inevitable. Anyone with a prized ticket to the first big showdown of the London Games had to know Michael Phelps was in trouble earlier in the day when he barely qualified for the final of the event he owns two gold medals in.

That was a shocker, but what happened Saturday night in the Olympic pool was simply mystifying. No self-respecting London bookie would have even dared to lay odds that the greatest swimmer in the world—no, make that the greatest swimmer ever—wouldn't even win as much as a bronze medal in his first race in these games.

The great swimming showdown to open the Olympics was a giant bust—unless, of course, your name is Ryan Lochte. The surfer dude from Florida dominated the 400-meter individual

See PHELPS on Page 26

Lopsided wins in futsal league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five teams recorded easy victories in the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

In the lone game in the boys U18 division last Friday, IT&E clobbered Mean Machine, 9-0, to improve to a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record.

Brian Lee led IT&E's demolition of Mean Machine, scoring a hat-trick, while his four other teammates also lit up the scoreboard. IT&E made all its goals in the first half with Enrico Del Rosario and Jake Lee nailing two apiece and Jeon Frank and Yong Jun Jeon adding one each.

See LOPSIDED on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Shirley's Coffee Shop player, right, fights possession against a Mellow Yellow striker during their game in the women's division of the SSS futsal league last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.